

## U.S. helicopter crashes; 6 killed

BAHRAIN (AP) — A U.S. Navy Sea Dragon helicopter crashed in the Gulf Saturday night and all six men aboard were killed, a U.S. navy spokesman said Monday. The crash was one of worst accidents U.S. forces have suffered in the Gulf since the war against Iraq ended in February. It raised the number of American non-combat deaths in the region since then to 71, according to U.S. military officials. The men's bodies were recovered from the Gulf about 40 hours later. The accident occurred at 9:05 p.m. (1805 GMT) Saturday minutes after the MH-53E helicopter took off from the amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu 65 kilometres north of Bahrain. "It was taking off from the ship, and it crashed shortly thereafter," a spokesman told the Associated Press. "We've just recovered the six bodies." The crash is being investigated, but so far it is not known what caused it, he said. The MH-53E, the largest helicopter in the U.S. naval air service, is mainly used for towing mine-sweeping detectors. But it is also employed as a transport. The MH-53E usually carries a four-man crew. It was not known why six men were aboard.

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## Judge dismisses case against North

WASHINGTON (R) — A federal judge Monday granted a request by the Iran-contra special prosecutor and dropped all criminal charges against fired White House aide Oliver North, the mastermind of the covert operation that rocked Ronald Reagan's presidency. "This terminates the case," Judge Gerhard Gesell said after Iran-contra prosecutor Lawrence Walsh admitted that he would be unable to salvage Col. North's criminal conviction for his role in the scandal. Col. North was convicted in 1989 for his role in the covert scheme to sell weapons to Iran in 1985-86 and to divert millions of dollars in profits to the Nicaraguan contra rebels, despite a congressional ban on military assistance.

## Qatar denies buying S. African weapons

NICOSIA (R) — Qatar, locked in a territorial dispute with neighbouring Bahrain, Monday denied reports it had ordered long-range guns from South Africa. Gulf-based military sources reported Wednesday that Qatar had ordered from South African arms manufacturer Armscor a dozen 155-mm G-5 howitzers, which have a range of 38 kilometres. The London-based specialist magazine Jane's Defence Weekly recently published a similar report. Bahrain's Sheikh Isa airbase in the southern part of the island would be just within range of G-5's set up on the Qatari peninsula across a narrow strip of water, the sources told Reuters. "An official Qatari source has denied a recent Reuters report that Qatar was seeking military equipment from South Africa," the official Qatar News Agency (ONA) said. "The state of Qatar knows well the purpose of reporting that news and who is spreading it and stands behind it at all times," the source told ONA.

## Soviet envoy meets emir of Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Soviet envoy Yevgeni Primakov met Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah Monday and handed him a letter from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Mr. Primakov, on a tour of six Middle East countries, arrived in Kuwait Sunday. Mr. Primakov has visited Egypt and the United Arab Emirates and is expected to leave Kuwait Tuesday for Tehran and then Turkey. On Sunday, Kuwait thanked the Soviet Union for its diplomatic support during the Gulf war and said it would welcome Soviet participation in its reconstruction plans. (see page 2)

## S. Africa agrees to nuclear inspection

JENNA (R) — South Africa, suspected of having nuclear weapons, has agreed to open its nuclear facilities to international inspection, a spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Monday. South Africa signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in July 10 and has now signed the framework inspections agreement, Hans Mayer told Reuters.

Vietnam, where the IAEA is holding its annual general conference, he said South Africa declared that the agreement would enter into force immediately. "This means we will be able to gain a full safeguard inventory and to send inspectors," he said.

## Bomb blast kills in Iraqi town

GHDAD (R) — The fuel tank of a water tanker exploded in the centre of a northern Iraqi town, killing 13 people, a U.N. official said Monday. Two other tanks, collecting water from a stream to distribute to mountain villages, were destroyed in Thursday's blast and subsequent fire. At least 17 injured people were admitted to hospital. Kanya, about 15 kilometres northwest of Bagdad, is in an area controlled by Kurdish guerrillas. The U.N. official, who was in the town at the time, said the blast was believed to have been caused by a mine.

## Dispute with Israel tests U.S. will — Crown Prince

AMMAN (R) — Crown Prince Hassan said Monday, ahead of a visit by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, that the dispute between Israel and the United States over Iranian guarantees would test Washington's commitment to peace.

"It is really a question of U.S. interest in the future to assure all the parties... that this is a longer-term commitment," the Crown Prince said, adding that Israeli opposition had diluted previous American positions on Middle East issues.

Mr. Baker arrived in Israel Monday into a storm over the guarantees to help resettle hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews. A top aide to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said U.S. President George Bush's threat to veto any early attempt by Congress to approve the guarantees hammed the search for peace.

Prince Hassan, in an interview with Reuters and the international television news agency Vis-

news, said, "I think it is a question of political stamina to see who wins through at the end of the day."

But the Crown Prince did not rule out peace talks taking place if Israel continued building new settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Clearly anything is possible given the political will but clearly there is going to be a great deal of resentment (if more settlements are built)," he said.

"I don't know who stands to gain effectively by maintaining the crescendo of extreme positions on either side..." he added.

Arab states and the Palestinians are asking for a halt to Israeli settlement activity to allow a Middle East peace conference to convene in October.

Washington, Israel's main donor, also sees the settlements as an obstacle to peace and Mr. Bush said he wanted Congress to delay considering the Israeli request so that nothing would

undermine the prospects for peace.

Israel needs loans worth \$10 billion to resettle Jewish immigrants mainly from the Soviet Union. Arab states fear the money will encourage Israel to move more Jews to the occupied territories, making a settlement more difficult.

Jordan has been pushing for a solution to the four-decade-old Palestinian problem and has made clear it does not want to pose any obstacles to convening a conference which could result in Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The Kingdom is expected to ask Mr. Baker this week for assurances that the Palestinians will choose their delegates to the talks and that the conference will be based on U.N. resolutions calling for Israel to trade land for peace.

The Crown Prince said he believed that Mr. Bush's statements on settlement building were in themselves assurances that Washington would press for an Israeli pullout.

He said the issue of Palestinian participation at the conference proposed for October had not yet "crystallised."

Jordan and the Palestinians are discussing fielding a joint delegation to the talks to help bypass Israeli objections to talking with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

## Bomb explodes in Beersheba

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A bomb exploded in an outdoor market in the southern city of Beersheba Monday, wounding a man and a woman, Israeli news reports said.

The blast occurred less than four hours before U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was due in Israel to discuss efforts to arrange Middle East peace talks.

At least 30 Palestinians, most from the occupied territories, were detained for questioning as police combed the area, Israeli radio said. There were no immediate claims of responsibility.

The reports said a homemade bomb placed in a bag of apples exploded at a vegetable and fruit stand at about 11 a.m. (0900 GMT) in Beersheba, about 90 kilometres south of occupied Jerusalem.

The injured included a Soviet immigrant man, who was wounded in the foot and treated at a nearby hospital, they said. A woman was treated for a slight arm injury, they added.

"There was a huge, deafening explosion," David Amar, owner of a nearby fast food stand, said on the radio. "We then saw someone hopping around on one foot at the site, his other leg looked mangled."

Police, who closed the market after the attack, did not answer the telephone for several hours afterwards Monday at the city's main police station.

Unknown assailants Saturday ambushed an Israeli army jeep in the occupied West Bank, killing one soldier.

The attack took place in the village of Misliya, 10 kilometres south of the town of Jenin, the army said.

On Sunday, masked men identifying themselves as members of the Black Panther vigilante group marched through the nearby village of Qabatiya and announced over loudspeakers they killed the soldier to avenge the slaying of one of their own by an army undercover squad earlier this month, Arab reporters said.

There has been a sharp increase in the use of guns by Palestinians against soldiers in recent weeks, and most of the attacks occurred in the Jenin area.

The Black Panthers in the Jenin area are armed and have been blamed for the slayings of at least 32 Arab informers this year, according to Arab reporters.

The slain soldier, Yair Cohen, 20, was buried Sunday in a military cemetery in the town of Afif. He was the first soldier killed in the occupied territories since March when two soldiers were run down by a Palestinian driver in the Gaza Strip.

In response to Saturday's killing, the army imposed an around-the-clock curfew on Misliya and neighbouring villages, and a night curfew on the town of Jenin.

Troops also cut down an olive grove in which the assailants allegedly were hiding.

## Clerics: No imminent hostage release

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The leader of Hizbullah said Monday the return by Israel of 51 prisoners and the bodies of nine guerrillas was not enough to warrant releasing more Western hostages.

In other developments, the country's highest-ranking Shiite cleric said he fought four missing Iranians and five Israeli servicemen, whose fate is tied with the hostage issue, are dead.

Syria's foreign minister told his German counterpart, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, that Syria would seek the release of two Germans believed held captive in Lebanon, Mr. Genscher's office said.

Farouq Al Sharra, Syria's foreign minister, and Mr. Genscher met in Bonn to discuss a number of issues, Mr. Genscher's office said in a statement.

The two men praised "the huge

efforts of the United States" towards putting together a Middle East peace conference, the statement said.

"A further topic was the hostage question," the statement said.

"The Syrian foreign minister reaffirmed that he will continue efforts for the release of the German hostages," the ministry statement said without further elaboration.

"I say as a fact: The only gate to solve the hostage crisis can be (obtained) through American pressure on Israel or through a pressure on Israel," he said.

Heinrich Strubig, 50, and 29-year-old Thomas Kempfner, members of the German ASME relief agency, disappeared in Lebanon on May 16, 1989.

Sheikh Abbas Musawi, head of the pro-Iranian Hizbullah, warned against excessive optimism on an early end to the plight of Westerners held captive in Lebanon.

Sheikh Muhammad Hussein Fadallah, spiritual leader of Lebanon's pro-Iranian Shiites

(Continued on page 5)

## Soviet leaders consider economic union

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet republican leaders Monday considered joining together in an economic union that would respect their independence and might save the country from financial collapse and a winter of hardship.

Radical economist Grigory Yavlinsky, the main author of the "reform" proposals, told a meeting of the state council that his plan recognised independence declarations and was aimed at tackling the grave crisis.

"Its main provisions include free enterprise and private property, free movement of commodities and services over the entire territory of the concerned union," the Soviet news agency TASS quoted as saying.

The state council, comprising President Mikhail Gorbachev and the republican leaders, is a transitional body set up to rule the country until creation of a new political confederation.

It discussed food shortages looming this winter and cooperation with the West as well as the economic treaty.

Mr. Yavlinsky said the market-oriented plan would allow former Soviet republics to create their own currency but there would also be a common monetary unit, presumably the rouble.

Soviet bankers and officials have spoken in recent weeks about establishing a "rouble zone" as the foundation of a new system of economic cooperation that would avoid a breakdown in vital trade ties.

Since last month's failed coup, several republics have decided their independence from Moscow and the centralised system which they have been locked into for decades.

"We want access to TV," said student Michael Dzigeant, 16.

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of Georgians mobbed the centre of their capital Monday in rival rallies that marked the fiercest confrontation so far over the fate of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Decrying Mr. Gamsakhurdia as a dictator, an estimated 30,000 people mobbed downtown Republic Square to hear former prime minister, Tengiz Segua, demand that the president resign.

Monday's rallies were by far the biggest in months, local observers said. They seemed destined to make it even more difficult for the small Caucasus Mountains republic in the southern Soviet Union to find a peaceful path to the independence all sides want.

They ranged from heart and kidney patients seeking free treatment at hospitals to war casualties needing neurosurgery.

Government hospitals are allowed to treat only Jordanians but officials say many have been turning a blind eye to the foreign patients.

"In the name of humanity, you cannot open all your facilities to them when your own population is hardly making it," one said.

Officials said Iraqis, many poor and unable to get primary care in their country because of a severe shortage in medicines and medical supplies, were flocking to Jordan.

The ministry's 1991 budget of JD 53 million has already hit a deficit of JD 3 million and the short-fall is expected to double by the end of the year, Dr. Abbadi said.

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## Iran seeks 'non-aggression pact' with GCC states

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — A United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper said Monday that there had been contacts between Iran and the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) which may lead to a non-aggression pact.

"Contacts between the GCC and Iran are dealing with an Iranian proposal to sign economic and cultural agreements, simultaneously with non-aggression pacts on a bilateral or collective basis," the Arabic-language Al Khaleej said in a report from Kuwait and Jeddah quoting informed diplomatic sources.

The Sharjah-based newspaper said contacts also covered post-war security in the Gulf and that Iran would likely be admitted in the security structure.

"Initial results of the contacts indicate that a six plus one (GCC states plus Iran) formula concerning security in the region is likely to be reached," Al Khaleej said.

It gave no details of the security measures.

The newspaper also said Tehran had agreed to most points in a proposed security pact between Kuwait and the United States.

It said the GCC states, in a confidence-building move, informed Tehran about the Kuwait-U.S. security pact.

GCC foreign ministers meeting held in Jeddah Sunday welcomed the improvements in relations with Iran.

Al Khaleej said the GCC-Iran agreement would also allow Iraq, which had invaded GGC member Kuwait last year, to enter the

security system after it implements U.N. resolutions on the Gulf war and its 1980-88 war with Iran.

In a communique at the end of a two-day conference, the ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates said they hoped "to find a common basis for constructive cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The communique said the ministerial council of the GCC noted developing ties with Tehran and "looks forward to a stage of cooperation with Iran that serves the common interests of their nations and ... security and stability in the region."

The GCC ministers will be heading later this month for the U.N. General Assembly in New York where they are expected to meet with their Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayati.

On Saturday, the GCC ministers met with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The talks focused on regional security in light of Security Council resolutions ending the Iraq-Iran war in August 1988 and the Gulf war earlier this year.

The communique said they welcomed the U.N. chief's efforts to complete Iran-Iraq peace arrangements "as that would be a tributary leading to the consolidation of stability and security in the region."

Iran's neutral stance in the Gulf war won it the goodwill of its GCC neighbours after years of strained ties over attacks on their shipping lanes and the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as leader of the Soviet Union.

In their communique, the GCC foreign ministers expressed support for international efforts for a Mideast peace conference and paid special tribute to President George Bush.

The ministers condemned Israel's settlements policy as an impediment to peace.

They welcomed steps towards peace in Afghanistan, Somalia and Lebanon, and the reinstatement of Mikhail Gorbachev as

leader of the Soviet Union.

## Kurds seized 800 Iraqi troops in clashes — U.N. sources

BAGHDAD (R) — Kurdish Peshmerga rebels captured more than 800 Iraqi troops in clashes last week in which around 20 people were killed and several dozen wounded, U.N. sources said Monday.

The worst fighting took place near the Kurdish towns of Taqqa and Kuy Sanjaq in northern Iraq, on the fringe of government-held territory and a Peshmerga-controlled zone, the sources said.

But Iraqi's state-run newspaper quoted rebel leader Massoud Barzani, who is leading negotiations with the Baghdad government on a Kurdish peace and autonomy agreement, as saying the clashes had been contained and that such incidents were to be expected.

Peshmerga guerrillas, fighting for a "democratic Kurdistan," told the U.N. sources they had captured 796 soldiers and 43 officers.

The troops were being held late last week in the central mosque at Ranya, about 40 kilometres north of Kuy Sanjaq, and the officers at a Peshmerga headquarters in the town, the sources said.

A U.N. official said he could not confirm Peshmerga figures for the number of prisoners, but added that he had seen several hundred Iraqi troops — still in uniform — at the mosque, had met a number of wounded being treated in hospital and had spoken to several of the officers.

Reuters has shown photographs taken at the three sites which supported this account.

The official said Peshmerga leaders had informed the Iraqi prisoners they would be returned unharmed to government-held territory within a very short time, along with their weapons.

Mr. Barzani met senior Iraqi government figures Sunday in the oil city of Kirkuk, 65 kilometres

southwest of Kuy Sanjaq.

Spokesmen for both sides said the meeting was positive. They said they had agreed "to continue the dialogue for a peaceful solution to the Kurdish problem."

U.N. relief officials said there were about 750,000 displaced Kurds in the north, some of them rebuilding villages destroyed in repeated Kurdish rebellions.

Others are in temporary shelter at camps where they are waiting to return to their homes. These include 150,000 who want to go back to Kirkuk.

Baghdad has said that 529 families who had officially registered as wanting to go back to Kirkuk would return within the next few days. U.N. agencies say this is only a fraction of the number who fled the city.

Presence in Turkey

Turkey will allow Iraqi Kurdish groups to keep permanent representatives in this country, a foreign ministry official said in Ankara Monday.

The representatives of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) will not carry any official or diplomatic status, the official said.

But he added that they will be allowed to open their own offices.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press that the presence of the Iraqi Kurds will enable Turkey to have better information on developments in northern Iraq.

Turkey's decision was the latest in a series of changes in its Kurdish policy, which started in March when Iraqi Kurdish leaders were secretly invited to Ankara. They have visited Turkey frequently since then.

Turkey has been fighting separatist insurgents from its own Kurdish minority since 1984.

Baghdad angrily rejected the

## Bradley, Nunn back Israel in row over guarantee

WASHINGTON (Agencies) —

Two Democratic senators faulted U.S. President George Bush Sunday for linking the issue of help for resettling Soviet Jews in Israel to the start of a Middle East peace conference.

Mr. Bush, a Republican, has threatened a veto unless Congress postpones for 120 days any consideration of Israel's request for \$10 billion in housing loan guarantees. He wants the delay to allow a Middle East peace conference to get off the ground this fall.

But Sen. Bill Bradley said the United States was violating "a fundamental moral principle" by seeking to link the loan issue to the peace talks.

"This is the largest exodus of Jews since the creation of the state of Israel," Mr. Bradley said on the CBS Television network.

"I think we should be there and we should stand at this moment with Israel that is absorbing... those who are fleeing oppression," he said.

Sen. Sam Nunn said the United States should not allow any money to be used for settlements in the occupied territories. But Mr. Nunn, speaking on NBC Television, also criticised Mr. Bush's tactics in fighting for a delay on the loan guarantees.

"We really should not connect humanitarian aid with the overall peace process," said Mr. Nunn. "Right now (Mr. Bush) apparently is tying it to the peace process."

Mr. Bush pounded the lectern at a news conference Thursday as he raised the veto threat and suggested Israel was acting ungratefully after U.S. Patriot missile crews protected it during the war against Iraq.

Some Israeli leaders reacted furiously. A far-right minister, Rehavam Zeevi, said after a cabinet meeting Sunday that Mr. Bush came very close... to being an anti-Semitic and anti-Israel."

Defense Minister Moshe Arens, interviewed Sunday on ABC Television in the United States, repudiated those comments and sought to play down the diplomatic quarrel.

"We are not going head-to-head either with the president or with the Congress," said Mr. Arens.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was due in Israel Monday for the sixth visit this year as he renews his mission to bring the Arab states and Israel to a peace conference next month.

Mr. Arens said Mr. Zeevi's comment was not the view of most of Israelis.

"That does not reflect major opinion within the Israeli government or for that matter within Israel itself," said Mr. Arens, speaking on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley."

Mr. Zeevi made the charge at Sunday's weekly Israeli cabinet meeting.

Eden Bental, Mr. Zeevi's adviser, told reporters outside the closed meeting that the minister "offered unprecedented criticism of President Bush and called him an anti-Semite."

"Minister Zeevi accused President Bush of being a liar, of using cheap demagoguery by saying Israel is asking for financial aid rather than merely guarantees, by comparison, giving billions of dollars of aid to Egypt," Mr. Bental said.

Mr. Zeevi, asked outside the meeting about his comments, said: "I said he is very close to it... to being an anti-Semitic and anti-Israel. Israel has to fight the (U.S.) administration..."

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## Baghdad paper launches unprecedented readers' poll

BAGHDAD (R) — The Baghdad newspaper Babil launched an unprecedented readers' poll Monday, canvassing opinion on the performance of the Iraqi government.

The daily, owned by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, published a cut-out questionnaire on its front page, saying it would run the survey for 10 days.

It also said it would conduct a poll of 1,500 people selected at random to test the government's popularity and gauge public opinion in general.

Babil said its surveys coincided with the end of the six-month trial period given by President Saddam to ousted prime minister Saadoun Hammadi to tackle the country's problems.

Dr. Hammadi, who was appointed in March in a move widely seen as a bid to halt Iraq's economic slide and broaden government support among majority Shias, was sacked Saturday after being humiliated in a ruling Baath Party election.

The mail-in questionnaire in Babil, which was founded earlier this year after President Saddam promised limited democratic reforms, asked readers:

1. Did the government succeed in performing its task? Yes or no.

2. Which is the most successful ministry?

3. Who is the most successful minister?

4. Who is the most handsome minister?

5. Any other observations.

## Guerrilla attacks against Israel must stop — Egyptian paper

CAIRO (R) — Arabs must cease guerrilla attacks against Israel to avoid giving the Jewish state an opportunity to sabotage Middle East peace talks planned for next month, an Egyptian newspaper said.

"We point to the danger of the failed infiltration attempt and the massing of Israeli troops in South Lebanon," it added.

"(This) could drive Shamir to be convinced that the military operation in South Lebanon could be a pressure point of considerable weight on the American president or at least enough to hinder the peace process," the newspaper said.

A Palestinian guerrilla captured by Israel after his unit held U.N. troops hostage in South Lebanon said he belonged to a mainstream Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) headed by Chairman Yasser Arafat.

A PLO spokesman has said it was not involved in the Lebanon clash in which a Swedish U.N. soldier was shot dead and five other peacekeepers were wounded when pro-Israeli militiamen opened fire. A guerrilla was also killed.

The semi-official newspaper

## Rushdie, in rare appearance, says hitmen are after him

LONDON (Agencies) — Salman Rushdie, still under a death threat for his book "The Satanic Verses," has made a rare public appearance and said reliable reports suggested that paid assassins were after him.

Flanked by police bodyguards Mr. Rushdie arrived Sunday to accept the award of the Writer's Guild for best children's book for "Haroun and the Sea of Stories."

Mr. Rushdie told guests at the ceremony that the threat issued Feb. 14, 1989, by the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini was still very real and that the reports indicated teams of hitmen were still seeking him. Ayatollah Khomeini, who died in June 1989, said the book blasphemed Islam.

"I would like to apologise for the unusual manner of my appearance here," Mr. Rushdie told the audience gathered at the Dorchester Hotel. "I would like to have been here in a more ordinary way."

He told the audience of the recent threats and said, "I hope

that you'll continue to support me. I hope that you will continue your work and make it clear that we will not get used to the idea that a man may be murdered for a book."

The Japanese translator of "The Satanic Verses," Hitoshi Igarashi, was found stabbed to death July 12 at Tsukuba University where he worked as an assistant professor.

The book's Italian translator, Ettore Caprioli, barely survived a July 3 knifing attack in Milan. Mr. Caprioli said he was attacked by a man who identified himself as an Iranian.

Mr. Rushdie, who has been in hiding since the late Iranian leader called on Muslims to kill him, has implored Iranian clergymen to let his son go.

In his remarks Sunday, Mr. Rushdie said he wrote "Haroun and the Sea of Stories" a kind of therapy to resume his normal writing activity.

"I wrote it to tell myself as much as anybody else that I would not be silenced and that I would continue," he said.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Somalia's factions appeal for peace

NAIROBI (R) — Five Somali clan-based groups have appealed to the government to restore peace in the country after hundreds were killed in clashes earlier this month. "All these organisations were displeased by the Sept. 5 fighting in (the capital) Mogadishu in which many civilians were killed," the factions said in a statement quoted by state radio late Sunday. Factions were reported to have died when forces under the Hawiye clan's military chief Mohammad Farah Aidid attacked President Ali Mahdi Mohammad's loyalist fighters. The radio, monitored in Nairobi by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said the factions called at a weekend meeting for Somalis to respect the resolutions of peace talks held in Djibouti last July, when a ceasefire was agreed. Prime Minister Omar Artaf Ghulub told Reuters by telephone from Mogadishu there had been "a tremendous change for the better" since fighting died down last week. Mr. Ali Mahdi was sworn in as interim president on Aug. 18, but he faces a difficult task in ending the gangland-style fighting between armed ethnic groups that has sacraficed the nation since dictator Mohammad Siad Barre was ousted in January. A northern clan declared independence from the rest of Somalia in May and most of the country has been carved into tribal territories ruled over by gunmen. Somalia's economy is in ruins and the handful of foreign relief groups working in Mogadishu were forced to temporarily evacuate during this month's fighting.

### Abu Musa foresees shortage of Soviet arms

ALGIERS (R) — A Palestinian guerrilla leader said in an interview published Sunday that the collapse of the Soviet Union would deprive the Palestinian and other liberation movements of the arms they need to fight. Abu Musa, leader of the Damascus-based Fatah uprising group, told the Algerian evening newspaper Horizons, "in a few years, our weapons will be obsolete (and) it will not be the United States which will supply us with them. Third World countries and liberation movements will have to understand that their ally, the Soviet Union, is no more. They will have to count on their own forces from now on." Abu Musa broke with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in 1983. His group remains committed to armed struggle against Israel. The Soviet ambassador to Algeria, Alexandre Aksenenko, told a news conference Sunday that in its arms sale policy the Soviet Union was no longer willing to sacrifice economic interests for strategic and ideological purposes. "I must say that the conditions in military cooperation, with our traditional partners, including Algeria, are in the process of changing," he said. "At the moment, we are moving to change this to conditions of mutual profit because, if we were ready to sacrifice economic interests for strategic and ideological reasons, now the situation is changed," he added.

### 'Friendly fire' families visit the U.S.

LONDON (R) — About 80 relatives of the 34 British servicemen killed in the Gulf war are visiting the United States. They hope to be welcomed by President George Bush. The group includes relatives of nine soldiers killed by "friendly fire" from two U.S. jets that attacked a British armoured column in Iraq. Patricia Atkinson, whose son Paul was one of the nine killed in the incident, said she would ask Mr. Bush to declassify a U.S. report on the attack. "My message to President Bush is to let the truth come out," she said. The U.S. Congress is considering a bill to grant each of the nine families \$60,000 (\$104,000) compensation. The relatives will visit the United Nations before travelling to Washington, California and Hawaii. Their trip was paid for by a British airline and U.S. travel companies.

### Kuwait thanks Moscow for diplomatic support

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait thanked the Soviet Union Sunday for its diplomatic support during the Gulf war and the Soviet Union promised to do its best to help free Kuwaitis still in Iraqi detention, the Kuwaiti News Agency said. Oil Minister Hamoud Abdullah Al Raqaq told Soviet envoy Yevgeny Primakov Kuwait was grateful to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for his role during the Iraqi occupation, when Moscow joined most other countries in calling for Iraqi withdrawal. Mr. Primakov arrived in Kuwait earlier Sunday on an Arah tour in search of economic help to mitigate shortages expected in the Soviet Union during the winter. But he told reporters on arrival he would not be asking Kuwait for assistance. The envoy, a Middle East expert, toured blazing oil wells. Mr. Raqaq said Kuwait would welcome Soviet participation in its reconstruction plans but gave no details of firm projects. Mr. Primakov will go to Iran and Turkey after Kuwait.

### Algerian party challenges FLN group

ALGIERS (R) — The party of Algerian veteran guerrilla leader Ait Ahmad Sunday challenged the formation of a newspaper group by the country's former ruling party, the National Liberation Front (FLN). The Socialist Forces Front (FFS) said it would take legal action against establishing the 11-title group, announced last week by the FLN. "The law does not permit the sale of public enterprises for the profit of private people (the FLN)... we are demanding its cancellation," the FFS said in a statement, a copy of which was sent to government leaders. The FLN governed Algeria from independence until 1989 when President Chadli Benjedid introduced reforms which led to the formation of more than 50 political parties. Several political parties have suggested



**KING VISITS GHQ** — His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, visited Monday the Army General Command where he was received by Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, the chief of staff's assistant, the commander of the Royal Air Force and the inspector general. King Hussein held a meeting with Gen. Abu Taleb and discussed with him issues of concern to the Armed Forces. King Hussein also met with the Armed Forces senior officers and reviewed with them the current situation in the region and the latest developments in the international arena. The King called on the officers to keep up the high standards attained by the army. His Majesty was accompanied on the visit by the King's military advisor, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad. (Petra photo)

## Road accidents increase in August

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 53 persons were killed and 972 others injured in 2,178 road accidents in Jordan in August, according to a statistical bulletin by the Public Security Department (PSD). The number of dead was nearly 15 per cent more than that in July but the number of injured was only 9.2 per cent over the injured people in July. The Amman area accounted for the most of the number of accidents, which caused the death of 13 persons and 397 injuries.

## Liberal, Constitution parliamentary blocs merge

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two parliamentary blocs Monday announced their merger under the Constitution Bloc, which subsequently nominated Thoman Hindawi as their candidate for the Lower House's presidency in the coming parliamentary session. The two blocs, the Liberal and the Constitution blocs, said their merger came as a result of consultations between them over the past few weeks, according to an official statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra. The announcement quoted deputies Yosef Mihaidin and Ahmad Inab as saying that the merger of the two blocks would help them contribute more effectively towards parliamentary activity in the coming session. It said that the Constitution Bloc will now have 18 members.

Following the announcement, the new bloc held a meeting and reaffirmed its nomination of Thoman Hindawi as the bloc's candidate for the House's presidency, Yusef Mihaidin as the bloc's official spokesman and Dr. Fawzi Teimeh as the bloc's rapporteur.

Meanwhile, a report in Al Dustour Daily said Monday that Deputy Yousef Khasawneh has resigned from the Islamic Movement Bloc. The paper said that Dr. Khasawneh declined to give reasons for his resignation.

## Kindle and Comcent host computerised banking technology conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Kindle, the leading international banking systems supplier and its local representative, Comcent Trading and Contracting Company — which is the leading Jordanian computer company, are hosting a week long banking technology conference for leading Jordanian banks at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel from Sept. 14 to Sept. 21.

The move falls in line with Comcent's expansion in the software business and commitment to the banking sector and is seen as a further strengthening of Kindle's commitment to the Middle East market in which it has been the dominant banking systems supplier for the last number of years.

"The region represents over 20% of Kindle's business and the seminar is designed to illustrate our commitment to BANKMASTER's technological advancement and enhancement for the Jordanian and Middle Eastern markets," said Area Manager Hugh McAree.

BANKMASTER is Kindle's award winning banking system and is one of the most widely installed systems of its kind in the Middle East and internationally. Unlike most of its competi-

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of naive painting from Germany at Abu Al-Hamed Shamsa Foundation Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Omar Boual at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings and ceramics by Iraqi artists Nader Mousa, Halim Mahdi and Haidar Al Misrafi at Hotel Jordan Intercontinental.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artist Salam Kanaan at the Royal Cultural Centre's Exhibition Hall.
- ★ Art exhibition by Huda Khaireef Mardhi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### LECTURES

- ★ Lecture entitled "Khirbet En-Zarraga, the City of the Early Bronze Age in Northern Jordan" by Prof. Siegfried Münch of the University of Tübingen at the Geotek Institute — 7 p.m.
- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, on Juvenile Delinquency at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:30 p.m.

## Minister defends decision to replace non-Jordanian workers

AMMAN (Petra) — The adverse effects of the Gulf crisis on Jordan and the unemployment problem the country is facing at the moment have forced it to follow a policy which aims to substitute foreign workers with local workers, according to Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Dughami.

Jordan should come up with sufficient numbers of skilled workers of its own so the substitution can take place in light of the present difficult circumstances and in the wake of the eviction of Jordanian workers from Kuwait, the minister said in an address at the opening of a seminar called to review Jordan's need of workers in the industrial and service sectors between 1991 and 1993.

He told the audience gathered at the Amman Chamber of Industry that Jordan is adopting this plan of substituting non-

Jordanian workers with Jordanians not out of a regional tendency directed against others, but because of pressing needs.

The minister said that the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) has been providing the local labour market with trained and qualified workers and it will continue to do that to meet local needs.

VTC Director General Ahmad Arwan told the seminar that the survey, conducted every five years, is aimed at defining the labour market's needs of workers and expected expansions.

The survey, he said, was expected to help decision-makers identify the needs of the labour market, especially those institutions which employ at least five workers. Dr. Arwan said.

He said that the survey covered

1,510 firms ranging from printing presses to bakeries. Its results will help the VTC to set its priorities in terms of providing training at its vocational centres, he added.

The survey also showed that non-Jordanian workers are mostly employed in the services sector even as bakeries, restaurants, hotels and textiles and leather industries.

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## Jordan Times

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Established 1975

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## Feeling cheated

THAT ISRAELI demonstrators followed up their leaders' vehement attack Sunday on U.S. President George Bush with tomato rockets at Secretary of State James Baker's motorcade on Monday comes as no surprise to us in the region. Clearly, it was only a manifestation of the Israeli frustration over the possibility that the Jewish state might find itself in an uncomfortable position in pursuing its stubborn rejection of the concept of land for peace at the proposed peace conference. But, more than anything else, it should serve as an eye-opener for those uninformed (and of course those who feign ignorance) in Washington and elsewhere in the United States that they are greeted with garlands and gun-salutes in Israel as long as they serve the Jewish state's interests and stand to incur Israeli wrath the moment they are seen stepping out of line. (We wonder what the American taxpayers think of a country which gets billions of American assistance but calls the American president a liar and throws tomatoes at the American Secretary of State.)

It is a foregone conclusion that the atmosphere in Israel, which definitely feels cheated out of what had appeared to be the strongest bargaining position, is getting increasingly hostile towards its afflito guardian angel who appears to be having a change of heart at a most crucial moment in time and refusing to be part of the Jewish state's carefully orchestrated campaign to strengthen its fait accompli in the form of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. The question that confronts Shamir, Sharon, Zevi & Company is whether they should opt for more "sons and daughters" to come to the "promised land" or for continued occupation of the "unpromised land."

Yet, the Israeli leaders know only too well that having failed to cow President Bush, they will have to budge and seek a face-saving formula. American Jewish leaders are now advising them to hurry up and seek a middle course formula instead of pushing ahead with their maximalist positions before the fallout from the confrontation over their request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees gets out of control.

Jewish leaders in the U.S. have come to this conclusion after President Bush and the American people showed no sign of retreat in spite of all the hysteria that they brought unto the U.S. Congress.

In this sense, by standing firm in the face of Israel's efforts to undermine the White House over the loan guarantee issue, Mr. Baker's hands have also been strengthened. For starters, he arrived in Israel after the resolve of the Americans to back up the Bush administration on this issue has been effectively proven. Yet the central question of where and how all this confrontational episode between the U.S. and Israel would affect the peace conference the date and the venue of which have yet to be announced remains to be seen. After all, Mr. Baker's trip is not intended to finish off the stand-off between his president and the Israeli hardliners on the loan issue and put the final touches on a deal. In view of the fact that his seventh visit to Israel would be his last before the peace talks are scheduled to begin, his agenda must be full of substantive subjects that still await resolution. On top of the list is of course the issue of Palestinian participation and the subject of Jerusalem. As French President Francois Mitterrand commented recently, it is in the interest of all parties, and above all Israel, to have authentic Palestinian representatives doing the negotiations on behalf of their people. Since a permanent solution is being sought, how else can one attain this big order without the central party to the entire Arab-Israeli conflicts being genuinely represented by persons who have a mandate to commit the Palestinian people to such a durable peace formula? One would have thought that Israel would be the first party to insist on real spokesmen from the Palestinian side lest the entire peace exercise risks being depicted by future generations of Arabs as nothing but a farce.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NO American president before George Bush had ever dared confront Israel or the Zionist lobby in the United States as adamantly as it is currently happening, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. All the previous U.S. administrations had been keen to show themselves as the staunchest supporters of Israel, providing it with all financial and military assistance it required and which enabled it to consolidate its hold on Arab land, said the paper. This has been the case so far until this moment when we see President Bush taking a firm stand against Israel's request for guarantees for a \$10 billion loan, the paper continued. It should be noted, however, that President Bush now considers himself as an international hero, having caused the collapse of world communism, brought about the dismemberment of the Soviet empire and sent his forces to crush the Iraqi military might in the Gulf war. It seems that the president does not want to see Israel and the world Zionist steal the glamour of such victories from him and it seems that he is intent to crown his glory by carrying out plans for a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, regardless of whether he pleases Israel in this move or not, the paper added. President Bush, who is starving the Iraqi people after destroying their economic infrastructure, does not care about the Arabs and their interests, but he is after personal gains and does not wish to see the Zionists steal the achievements from him, the paper said. President Bush does not wish to see Israel come out victorious over the only superpower of the world and over a president who has accomplished so much for himself and become a national hero in his own country, the paper said. For this reason, the paper added, one could expect Mr. Bush to resort to the American people for support for his plans to protect his own victories.

Although we believe the current tension between Israel and the U.S. administration over the question of loan guarantees for Israel could have an adverse effect on the peace process, the U.S. president holds sufficient power this time to impose his will and implement its plan, said Al Dastour Arabic daily Monday. The U.S. administration's position, the paper said, is displayed in the fresh tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the U.S. president's determination to stand by his own words to achieve a settlement at all costs, the paper added. As the U.S. president is manifesting his resolve to resist the Zionist lobby's pressure in Congress, we hope his secretary of state will achieve success in his new endeavour, the paper said. We have no doubt that the Americans are in a position to impose their will and to overcome any difficulties in the way of convening a peace conference, given the recent firm stand of the U.S. president, one can only remain optimistic about the prospects of the coming conference and its results, the paper added.

# Europe and the Middle East — why so many misunderstandings?

By Erich Gysling

WE all know it: Europeans and Americans have difficulties in understanding the Middle East. Why is this? What is at stake? Are the mentalities too different, are there too many burdens of history, are we divided on the ground of cultural and religious differences and tensions, is the language a barrier?

I will try to explain some of the problems and furthermore I will try to describe misunderstandings and prejudices. There are, as we all know, prejudices, and it might be interesting to think about the reasons:

Whenever I speak about the Middle East here in this country, I will be confronted with one question from the audience: Is it true that the Arab World acts just in an emotional way? Of course I answer with a no — and then try to explain things in the following way:

Generally politicians in the Arab World handle things just as sensibly as European politicians. With some exceptions, of course, just as we have exceptions in our region of the world. But there is, as it seems to me, a difference: policy and politics in the Arab World usually is not an abstract matter, but a very solid one. You will not find many theoreticians and real ideologues. The Arab political personality usually takes into consideration, what effect an act or a speech or a decision will have on that part of his community which is relatively close to him.

The level of a large family usually is his first point of reference, which means a group of maybe two thousand or three thousand persons. This makes policy and policy-making in the Arab World much less abstract than policy-making in the West. The relatively small circle of people which really count for an Arab politician creates, on the other hand, often a certain distance already between the level of those who decide in political matters and the large masses of the population.

This fact is an indicator for certain problems in the Arab World: there are large groups of population in different countries of the region that hardly identify with the state as such. In many cases the respective state is considered as a very precise body, sometimes even as an artificial creation. And very often the boundaries of the states have, as well all know, been artificially created by the former colonial powers, especially by France and the United Kingdom. So we should not be surprised that the state as such often does not create warm feelings in the minds of those who live in this state.

Disputes about borders of states became prominent during the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait, when the Iraqi ruler declared, once again, that his government would not recognise the boundaries of the two states, given the fact that these lines had been drawn by the former colonial power, the British — he just forgot to add that the non-recognition of this border would lead to the conclusion that the borders of Iraq are just as artificial as those of any other state in the region and that Iraq's legitimacy would be as questionable as the legitimacy of Kuwait. Beginning a discussion about this point would, this is obvious, lead to a broad discussion about territorial rights of a great number of Mid-Eastern countries.

But let us go back to the question: what are the reasons for so many misunderstandings be-

cause what. The barrier has been broken," said a young civil servant.

The changes have angered radical Muslims trying to pull the country back to Muslim traditions and its desert heritage.

A group calling itself "Commanding good deeds and forbidding evil" in Kuwait, wear the latest Western fashions and even hold hands in public.

Many women still cover their bodies and faces with traditional black robes but more are seen unveiled and dressed in Italian and French designer clothes.

Iraq's occupation of the Gulf emirate triggered changes in the conservative social system here, and many Kuwaitis say they are not going back to the old ways.

"There is no going back, no

Ministry officials said nobody had the right to physically or verbally assault any citizen and asked people to report any such incidents to police.

The group's plan drew angry reactions from other Kuwaitis.

Newspapers have been publishing editorials warning against possible political motives behind the group's calls for Islamic purity. "The Kuwaiti people don't need anybody to teach them Islam," said one editorial. Other newspapers said the group's plans might be a front to spread fundamentalism and to try to impose strict Islamic laws similar to neighbouring Saudi Arabia and Iran.

"We should not be compared to similar bodies in other Islamic countries. Soft persuasion and leniency will be the basis for our work."

Three of the seven groups in

the ministry, compared with ours. In today's world we tend to forget details of historical events rather quickly. But it may be useful to look back to the year 1979, when Ayatollah Khomeini came back to Iran, when the shah was overthrown. There, probably for the first time, the West recognised that our Western order of priorities is not necessary the order of priorities for other cultures. We take it for granted that freedom is the goal number one of all the human beings and that they willingly accept insecurity as a result of freedom. I mean with these words that individuals in the West are used to make personal decisions and that they agree to accepting the consequences of these decisions.

There is only a fragile framework of values which gives an individual in the West moral, ethic, religious security. The priorities in an Islamic society may be very different security in a moral and religious sense does have the priority, and people accept, as result, a limitation of their freedom. Ayatollah Khomeini told his followers very clearly what they had to do and what they had not to do. If they followed his teachings, they could be sure to be rewarded in the other world, and following the path of the Ayatollah meant and still means for millions of human beings to live in security, in a sphere where things are clear, where you do not have to question yourself all the time: is it right or is wrong?

What can be said about Islamic fundamentalism in this context can be said, as well, about nationalism. This movement had its highlights when Gamal Abdel Nasser was in power in Egypt. After Abdel Nasser the ideas of Arab nationalism seemed to be prominent in Syria, Iraq and Libya. Algeria always followed, to a certain degree, its own way, which was characterised by the traumatic experiences of the war against French colonialism.

Many of the early Arab nationalists were members of minorities. They often felt a desire to underline their allegiance to a common Arab cause and they sought after ways and means to integrate into the general system of values within the Arab World. If we look back into the history of Arab nationalism, we will find ideologues who can be considered as leftists as well as leftists. Sati Al Hush belonged to the first of these categories, Michel Aflaq or Salah Bitar to the second one. In the first years, in the nineteenth century, the Arab nationalists only formed a small minority within the mainstream of the Arab World, and it took a long time before their theories were considered as useful instruments in order to challenge the challenge of the Western colonial powers. Arab nationalism was, just as well as the Islamic fundamentalism, a defensive line, but generally the nationalists recognised the need not only to modernise the Arab society, but also to acquire and adapt some of the Western ideas and Western technology.

Much later, when Arab nationalism was transformed into political power, the West and the European east had a tendency of confusing this ideology with a pro-communist line. Abdel Nasser's agreement with Czechoslovakia in the fifties of this century was misunderstood as the expression of a political preference in favour of Leninism. And when Abdel Nasser nationalised the Suez Canal, the West retaliated in the nineteenth century at least, into not more than three important phases. The first one was the expansion of the Arab Islamic culture in the seventh and eighth century through North Africa into Spain and southern France. The next one was the phase of the Christian crusades, in the eleventh and twelfth century. Centuries later Turks and Europeans found themselves involved in a series of wars.

A new phase began after Napoleon's invasion of Egypt. From an Arab point of view the intrusion

marked a turning point in different ways. The West, which up to then did not seem to be more advanced than the Middle East, started to demonstrate its technological skill and superiority.

The brutal colonisation of Algeria by France, from 1830 onward, contributed to the deterioration of the relations between the two worlds. The conquests of British in Aden, in the area of the Gulf and Sudan came only decades later, and between 1901 and 1911 the French and the Italians occupied the Middle East just as a Western formula. The West translated jihad into holy war and interpreted President Saddam Hussein's aggressive policy as the result of religious fervour, directed only first against Kuwait, but in a larger context also against the West and against Western culture. Still today it is difficult to persuade people in this country that the raison d'être of Iraq's political system is not Islam, but the secular ideas of Baathism and that politicians in the Arab World in times of tension just feel tempted to make abuse of religious terms.

I personally am convinced that there is much common ground between the West and the Middle East and that the relations between the two worlds can be developed in a constructive way — if both sides recognised the different system of values in the two parts of the world. Recognising the different system of values and respecting the right of the partner to be different can mean practical terms for us: we should not force the Middle East to adapt our visions. It would be a tremendous mistake to enforce a so-called "new world order" in the Middle East just as a Western formula. If a new world order will emerge, it will only emerge as the result of a mutual understanding, as a construction in which both sides place their ideas and their visions. I do hope that this can be achieved. — Arab-Swiss Cooperation.

pied remaining parts of Northern Africa. Other areas of the Arab World suffered the domination by the Turks, and during World War I the British promised Sharif Hussein their support for an independent Arab Nation after the defeat of Turks. The Sykes-Picot agreement and the Balfour declaration were attempts to divide the Middle East in areas under French and British domination and represented the beginning of the creation of the state of Israel. In the documents of the League of Nations the term "Arabs" did not even exist, and in the Balfour declaration the Arabs were only mentioned as "existing non-Jewish communities".

It can easily be understood that the colonial domination was regarded as a challenge to the Arab population and that one rebellion was followed by the next one. Of course we can have different viewpoints on the question if the non-recognition of the partition of Palestine by the Arabs was wise or not, but we have to bear in mind that large segments of the Arab population just did not trust the West anymore. History had taught them a lesson which they did not forget. It took many more years before relations started to improve again, and only to a certain degree.

The booming of Arab nationalism in the sixties and the strategy of the Soviets in the Middle East made the harmonisation of the relations difficult — even if we know today, as I mentioned earlier, that the ideology of Abdel Nasser in Egypt was misinterpreted by Western political leaders and that Arab nationalism never meant the transformation of the Middle East into a sphere of influence of the communists.

But even if some of the misunderstandings of times passed by did not exist any longer, others survived. The latest of these misunderstandings and misinterpretations emerged around the Iraq crisis and the war in January and February of this year. When Iraq's President, Saddam Hussein, first mentioned the term "jihad", many people here in the West felt a revival of old fears. The West translates jihad into holy war and interpreted President Saddam Hussein's aggressive policy as the result of religious fervour, directed only first against Kuwait, but in a larger context also against the West and against Western culture. Still today it is difficult to persuade people in this country that the raison d'être of Iraq's political system is not Islam, but the secular ideas of Baathism and that politicians in the Arab World in times of tension just feel tempted to make abuse of religious terms.

I personally am convinced that there is much common ground between the West and the Middle East and that the relations between the two worlds can be developed in a constructive way — if both sides recognised the different system of values in the two parts of the world. Recognising the different system of values and respecting the right of the partner to be different can mean practical terms for us: we should not force the Middle East to adapt our visions. It would be a tremendous mistake to enforce a so-called "new world order" in the Middle East just as a Western formula. If a new world order will emerge, it will only emerge as the result of a mutual understanding, as a construction in which both sides place their ideas and their visions. I do hope that this can be achieved. — Arab-Swiss Cooperation.

The presence of U.S. troops in the emirate because of the Gulf war and the American role in freeing their country has encouraged people to further flout social conventions.

Despite the new freedoms, many people say a close-knit family is still an important part of the social structure.

Although Kuwait's state religion is Islam and its law include

bans on alcohol and pre-marital sex, its oil wealth has brought a host of Western influences from bikinis to hamburgers.

The presence of U.S. troops in the emirate because of the Gulf war and the American role in freeing their country has encouraged people to further flout social conventions.

Change is apparent in the streets. In the Salimiyah district, young boys and girls stroll every night — sometimes holding hands — in jeans and T-shirts.

## New social freedoms in Kuwait anger fundamentalists

By Diana Abdallah  
Reuter

KUWAIT — The tall black-haired woman in tight jeans and low-cut top drew stares from men in the restaurant.

"By God, what is this? Is this the new freedom in free Kuwait?" a visibly upset man asked his wife.

Men and women now mix freely in Kuwait, wear the latest Western fashions and even hold hands in public.

Many women still cover their bodies and faces with traditional black robes but more are seen unveiled and dressed in Italian and French designer clothes.

Iraq's occupation of the Gulf emirate triggered changes in the conservative social system here, and many Kuwaitis say they are not going back to the old ways.

"There is no going back, no

Ministry officials said nobody had the right to physically or verbally assault any citizen and asked people to report any such incidents to police.

The group's plan drew angry reactions from other Kuwaitis.

Newspapers have been publishing editorials warning against possible political motives behind the group's calls for Islamic purity.

"The Kuwaiti people don't need anybody to teach them Islam," said one editorial.

Other newspapers said the group's plans might be a front to spread fundamentalism and to try to impose strict Islamic laws similar to neighbouring Saudi Arabia and Iran.

"We want to advise Kuwaitis to hold to Islamic values and norms and with cooperation with the authorities to eliminate the new social norms infiltrating our Arab and Muslim society," Mr. Shuiyeb said.

"We should not be compared to similar bodies in other Islamic countries. Soft persuasion and leniency will be the basis for our work."

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## Jordan expects written assurances

(Continued from Page 1)

Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. But he stressed that Jordan would accept any decision that the PLO would reach and that no party has the right to intervene in naming or appointing the Palestinian delegates.

He said that Jordan's resentment and rejection of any interference in naming the Palestinian delegation was conveyed very clearly to Mr. Baker during his last visit here.

"The PLO has the right to name whoever it wants from whatever town and to raise whatever issues it wants to raise, especially concerning the status of Jerusalem," Dr. Ensour stressed.

Reaffirming Jordan's strong commitment to the Arab identity of east Jerusalem, Dr. Ensour stressed: "Nin Arab, Muslim or Christian can claim that Jerusalem is not Arab."

Dr. Ensour emphasised that Jordan's position was based on a realistic approach that takes into consideration the regional and international balance that resulted from the collapse of the Soviet Union and Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war.

He implied that Jordan was trying to reconcile between a strategy that will ensure its well-being under the growing political and economic pressures it has been placed under and a dignified stand that will not negotiate away the Arab national rights.

"We realise that there is a big gap between reality and illusions," he said. "But our top priority should be to preserve our homeland and to attain what that lie ahead."

## Baker meets Shamir, Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

Jewish settlers to the occupied territories.

The Bush administration has repeatedly said the settlements are an obstacle to peace.

Mr. Ben-Aharon, who shares Mr. Shamir's antipathy to trading land for peace, said Israel would not join talks in which it would merely be forced to obey U.N. orders.

Arabs wanted a conference that "wouldn't be a forum of direct negotiations between equal partners but a tribunal where they will demand we carry out U.N. resolutions," he said. "That won't happen."

## Clerics: No hostage release imminent

(Continued from page 1)

and Hezbollah's mentor, said the hostage crisis could be nearing an end but he too said this depended on the flexibility of those involved.

"In principle, the (hostage) issue is moving in a direction that closes the file for good, but this depends on the nature and flexibility of the factions who actually control the case," he told British radio Monday.

"This file can be totally closed as soon as possible when the quiet diplomacy within (U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez) de Cuellar is moving gets realistic opportunities to reach conclusive positive results," he added.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar is working to free up to 10 Western hostages — five Americans, two Britons, two Germans and an Italian — held by Lebanese fundamentalists along with six Israeli servicemen and hundreds of Arab prisoners detained by Israel.

Sheikh Musawi said Israel's release last week of 51 Lebanese prisoners and nine bodies of guerrillas was "a very incomplete step."

"The Israeli move should have been bigger. Israel should have

freed a bigger number of prisoners including Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid... we did not see a real positive step," he added.

Israel abducted Sheikh Obeid,

a senior Hizbullah cleric, from his home in South Lebanon in 1989.

Fundamentalist sources say he is a trump card for any exchange of prisoners.

Israeli newspaper Yedioth

Ahronoth said Mr. Lubrani was to hear from Mr. Perez de Cuellar on the fate of missing Israeli navigator Ron Arad, captured when his plane was downed in Lebanon in 1986.

Another pro-Iranian cleric,

Sheikh Ahmad Taleh, said Saturday the captors would free one of the two Britons within 24 hours but later extended the timescale.

Sheikh Taleh replaced Sheikh

Obeid as the Shiite spiritual leader in the South Lebanon village of Jibsheet.

# Nidal: A tale of struggle for human dignity

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

they are a bit short on money after the Gulf crisis."

Nidal now awaits at the hospital for the completion of his legal papers and travel documents as well as the arrival of donations from different humanitarian organisations to fund his operation and his two week stay in India.

Like many youth in the occupied territories, who share more or less the same fate and tell almost the same story, this youth, who preferred anonymity for fear of Israeli reprisals, wanted to share his story with the world in the hope that one day his younger brothers aged 12 and 14 would be spared from the pain and misery that have become the bitter reality of his life.

Living in one of the hospitals in Amman, this youth will be referred to in this article as Nidal (struggle), awaiting to be transferred to India, where he will undergo a second kidney transplant operation. The first operation was conducted last year in India, and according to Nidal it ended up being a failure because his body refused the transplant.

"I have to go back for another transplant because my body rejected the first one," Nidal said. "Unfortunately this time the organisation (Palestinian Liberation Organisation) cannot pay for the whole operation because as you know

"Sometimes the Israelis

would tie the prisoner's bands and lift him on a crane for a couple of minutes," Nidal said.

"This is very painful because the whole weight pulls at the wrists and this causes them to bleed heavily."

With the start of the intifada in 1988, Nidal was arrested five times. On more than one occasion his arrest was due to suspicion, with no formal charges made against him.

"I was arrested for two months based on the testimony of an Israeli soldier," Nidal said. "The second time I was arrested, it was for six months, from April 8, 1988, to Oct. 18, 1988."

During this prison term, Nidal suffered a major blow to his already deteriorating health situation. The prison, known as Ansar, is situated in Naqab desert. Resembling a Nazi concentration camp, prisoners are required to build their own quarters.

"After they arrested us they blindfolded us and made us go into buses; then they drove us to this unknown place," Nidal said. "The first fifteen days when we arrived we did not know where we were."

Reminiscing about the prison, Nidal shivered and started recalling little details that seemed to upset him. Worried that this would affect his poor health, Nidal was asked to take

it easy, but as if the memories shook his foundations he insisted to go on.

"We were treated very badly. They would feed us dry bread and jam; the water we drank was hot, deliberately made so by painting the water tanks black, and polluted. If the heat during the day was intolerable, the nights were intensely cold, particularly that the guards kept our tents open," Nidal said.

With the most dramatic event that took place in the prison, was the Ansar massacre, in August 1988 till Sept. 13 of the same year. "They tied me to a tree from 11 p.m. till 4 a.m. and it was very cold," Nidal said. "Then they forced me to stand under heavy rain for three days in a row, without food, or drink."

This event prompted world condemnation and made the Red Cross intervene. "Red Cross staff would make a visit every two weeks following this incident," Nidal said. "But nothing came out of it," he added, explaining that the prisoners were threatened by the Israeli military guards at the prison not to complain to the Red Cross people.

"There was one man, we called Tseibeh, who used to say that 'the Red Cross cannot do anything for you, I am the only one who can,'" Nidal said.

His second arrest also lasted

for six months, from March 5,

1989 till Sept. 13 of the same year.

"They tied me to a tree from 11 p.m. till 4 a.m. and it was very cold," Nidal said. "Then they forced me to stand under heavy rain for three days in a row, without food, or drink."

Nidal was again transferred

to Ansar prison, but this time his situation had deteriorated so much that he was sent to the

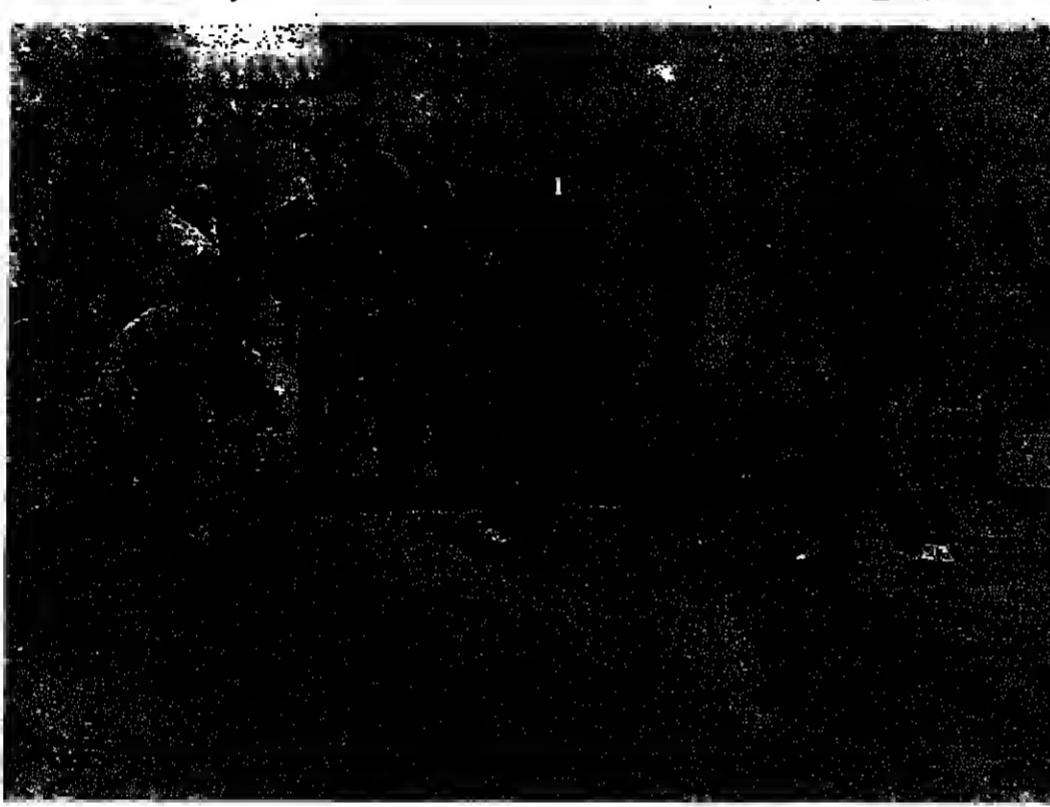
prison doctor. The doctor, Nidal recalls, told him that his health situation was bad, but refused to allow him to be checked at a proper hospital.

"I stayed for six months without proper medical treatment and after I was released from Ansar I went to a doctor who informed me that my situation was beyond repair," Nidal said.

So, on April 23, 1991, Nidal requested a permit allowing him to travel abroad for medical treatment. He was granted permission on July 7, 1991.

"My friends collected JD 100 needed to get my permission and here I am," Nidal said.

Nidal is in dire need of urgent funding and, although his life hangs in a thin thread, his enthusiasm for a better life and his struggle for oastinal dignity are remarkable, setting yet another example of the bravery of the 'children of stone.'



## Soviets in Cuba seen as friends but always foreigners

By Pascal Fletcher  
Reuter

was an invitation for a U.S. attack and it called for a simultaneous withdrawal of U.S. forces from a naval base on the island.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev surprised Cuba on Wednesday by announcing that talks would soon begin on the withdrawal of the largest group of Soviets on the Island, 31,000 military personnel.

Their presence, which has numbered thousands in the past,

is now in question as does between the Caribbean Island and its nuclear superpower ally are, increasingly strained by the Soviet Union's swing away from communism.

On Saturday, the Cuban government said the Soviet decision to withdraw its troops from Cuba

reduced to about 1,000 over the last year. There are also several hundred diplomatic staff.

For many Cubans, the Soviet citizens who began arriving on the Island from mid-1960 onwards to ever growing numbers were their first contact with the outside world.

Whether mingling with their Cuban hosts, shopping in their own special shops, or relaxing on Cuba's sun-kissed beaches, the Soviets are usually easy to spot with their mostly pale skins, stocky build, and fair hair.

Cubans, whose warm hospitality to foreigners is tempered by a sharp eye for weaknesses, jokingly call the Soviet "bolos."

This half-affectionate, half-mocking tag has less to do with

"bolshhevik" than with the Soviets' reputation for awkwardness in a Latin society where appearance is all important.

The Spanish "bolo" can mean a shapeless, badly constructed object.

While Soviet citizens, whether soldiers or technicians, can be found in all corners of the island, from Havana to the southern port of Ciego de Avila or the north-eastern nickel-mining town of Moa, they generally keep a relatively low profile.

"They live a life apart," a Cuban sugar engineer said.

The Soviets in Cuba have their own housing blocks, their own shops, their own schools and their own social clubs. Their diplomatic number plate 060 is almost as

ubiquitous as the Soviet Lada cars that fill Havana's streets.

Some Soviets have, however, earned an unflattering reputation among ordinary Cubans for having a sharp eye for business opportunities on the island's flourishing black market.

Cubans have also become used to Soviet goods, from arms to butter, as imports from the Soviet Union rose over the years to grab a 75 per cent share of the island's total imports.

But in the last year, even Soviet products have become more scarce on the bare shelves of state shops as turmoil in the Soviet Union increasingly disrupted the economic lifeline.

Most Cubans have a less effusive view of Soviet than the "eternal brotherhood" so often trumpeted in the official media.

But they recognise Moscow saved Cuba from economic collapse and possible U.S. invasion after Washington turned its back on the island in the early 1960s, cutting diplomatic ties and imposing a tough economic embargo which still stands today.

"When everything else closed against us, the Soviets helped us," a Cuban communications technician said.

Cubans did vividly recall the high drama of the October 1962 missile crisis, when Cuba, backed by Moscow but in the front line, confronted the U.S. with more than 40,000 Soviet troops — plus missiles — on Cuban soil.

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## SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

### Brazil happy with World Cup draw

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazilians are confident they can maintain their record as the only country to have played in every World Cup final series, following the draw for the South American qualifying groups for the 1994 competition. The draw, made in Asuncion at the weekend, placed Brazil in Group A with Colombia, Peru, Paraguay and Venezuela. It is considered the easier group as the top two teams qualify automatically for the 1994 finals. World Cup runners-up Argentina were drawn in Group B from which only the top team qualifies automatically. The second team play off for a final place against the winners of a match between the Oceania Group champions and the Concacaf Group runners-up. Argentina face Bolivia, Ecuador, and arch-rivals Uruguay. Chile were banned from the 1994 competition by the International Football Federation (FIFA) after walking off the pitch during a World Cup qualifying match in Brazil in 1989.

### Arnhem stays top after away win

AMSTERDAM (R) — Vitesse Arnhem remained at the top of the Dutch first division after beating FC Volendam 1-0 away. John Van Den Brom scored from 15 metres in the 10th minute after Hans Van Arum had set up the chance. Volendam came closest to equalising in the second half when a free-kick by Frank Berghuis hit the post. Vitesse heads the table with 11 points from seven games, followed by KC Waalwijk whose 3-0 win against Den Haag left them with nine from seven. Ajax Amsterdam, unbeaten after four matches, had to mark time this weekend after their game in Groningen was called off by the local mayor because of fears of violent clashes between rival supporters. PSV Eindhoven maintained their 100 per cent record Saturday, beating Roda JC Kerkrade 2-1 at home.

### Hat-trick catapults Boavista to the top

LISBON (R) — Nigerian striker Richard Owobokiri struck a hat-trick to help unfancied Boavista beat Penafiel 3-0 and move to the top of the Portuguese Soccer League at the weekend. Boavista, whose match was Saturday, took over on goal difference from Claves, who suffered their first defeat of the season when they went down 3-0 at Pacos de Ferreira Sunday. Both teams have six points from four games.

### 133 states to play 1994 World Cup

ZURICH (R) — A record 133 countries have entered for the 1994 World Cup in the United States, the International Football Federation (FIFA) said Monday. The 1990 tournament in Italy attracted 112 entries, the previous highest figure. The draw for the preliminary rounds will take place in New York on Dec. 8.

### Peugeot wins sportscar race

MAGNY COURS, France (R) — Peugeot gained their second world sportscar championship victory of the year with an impressive one-two. Their double triumph came after both Mercedes cars dropped out early on and the two Jaguars were plagued by problems. Keke Rosberg of Finland and Frenchman Yannick Dalmas completed the 101 laps of the 4.27-km circuit in two hours 38 minutes 36.258 seconds, almost 43 seconds ahead of the other Peugeot driven by Italian Mauro Baldi and Philippe Alliot of France. The Mercedes of Frenchman Jean-Louis Schlesser was forced out with a broken throttle-cable and that of German Michael Schumacher with a blown engine.

### Forget wins Bordeaux tennis final

BORDEAUX, France (R) — World number 6 Guy Forget wrapped up victory in double quick time at the Bordeaux men's tournament, beating Olivier Delaître in just 54 minutes of an all-French final. Forget, using his big serve and strong all-court game to devastating effect, won 6-1 6-3 to capture his fourth tournament victory of the year and the seventh of his career. The unseeded Delaître, ranked 83rd in the world, had beaten three seeds on his way to the final but had no weapons to worry the fluent Forget.

### Muster beats Skoff in Geneva final

GENEVA (R) — Unseeded Thomas Muster won the Geneva Open men's tennis title Sunday and then predicted he would be back in the world's top 10 next year. Muster beat fourth-seeded fellow Austrian Horst Skoff 6-2 6-4 and there was no holding him afterwards. "I knew I was going to win after I took the first set so easily and I expect to be back in the top 10 next year," said Muster, who was ranked sixth in the world until a horrific car accident in 1989 put him out of action for almost a year. He required extensive knee surgery and dropped to 53rd in the rankings.

### Magic Night becomes Arc contender

PARIS (R) — Magic Night, whose dam was bought cheaply to save her from being destroyed, became a contender for next month's prestigious Prix De L'Arc de Triomphe. The filly forced her way into the Arc picture with a convincing victory in the Prix Verrerie Escada, a feature race of Sunday's Arc trials at Longchamp. Magic Night, the 3-1 favourite, came on strongly to take up the running from Cimagoira, who finished third, and then foiled the late challenge of Pink Turtle to win by one and a half lengths. Magic Night is leased by her trainer Philippe Dermechtel from her breeder, Madame Simorre de Almeida, who bought the dam Pin Up Babe for 2,500 francs to save her from being put down. From those unpromising beginnings, Magic Night has developed into France's top middle distance filly and will be one of the leading contenders for the Arc on Oct. 6.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIAH HIRSCH  
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#### FIND THE ENTRY

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH  
♦ J 10 4  
♦ K 7 2  
♦ 8 7 5  
♦ A 6 3 2

WEST  
♦ Q 7 5 3 2  
♦ J 10 9 6 3  
♦ 4 3  
♦ Q 10 9  
♦ J 8 4

SOUTH  
♦ K 9 8  
♦ A 5 4  
♦ A Q J 10  
♦ K 7 5

The bidding:

South West North East  
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass  
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♦

Beware of a case of the flying fingers. Playing too fast to the first trick has cost many thousands of points over the years.

South landed in three no trump after a textbook auction. North's raise to two no trump was invitation. With a good 17 points and a known source of tricks in the diamond suit, South had no qualms about accepting.

West led the three of spades, covered by the ten. East rose with the

ace and declarer followed with the eight. On the spade return declarer tried playing low, but West won the queen and cleared the suit.

It was obvious that declarer would have to bring in the diamond suit to fulfill the contract, and dummy had just two entries. A heart to the king was the entry for one winning finesse, and a club to the ace for another. Declarer tried cashing the ace of diamonds, but the king failed to drop, so South could come to only eight tricks—one spade, two hearts, three diamonds and two clubs.

One more entry to dummy was all that declarer needed to land the game, and some thought before playing to the first trick might have provided the winning answer. West was surely an overwhelming favorite to hold the queen of spades, so it would have been a worthwhile exchange to give up the possibility of the spade finesse in favor of creating another entry to dummy.

Under East's ace of spades declarer should have jettisoned the king. Now dummy's jack of spades would have been promoted to a sure entry, enabling declarer to take three diamond finesses. That would have reeled in four diamond tricks and with them, the contract.

## Liverpool's return, new format add spice to European campaign

By Reuters

LIVERPOOL'S return after six years in exile since the Heysel tragedy and a new format for the Champions Cup add intriguing dimensions to the battle for Europe's major club honours which gets into full swing this week.

English first division Liverpool, who have achieved some of their greatest triumphs on the European soccer stage, make their comeback in the UEFA Cup with a first-round first-leg match at Anfield against Finland's Kuusysi Lahti.

The opening games in the Champions', Cup 'Winners' and UEFA Cups — spread over Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday — also show the repercussions of bloody inter-ethnic rivalry in Yugoslavia whose teams have to play home legs outside their strife-torn country.

Yugoslavia's European Cup holders, Red Star Belgrade, must also play away — but for a contrasting reason.

They open their trophy defence against Northern Ireland's Portadown in Szeged, Hungary, after being banned from playing at home for one match because of crowd trouble at last season's semifinal.

The first round of the Champions' Cup also marks the return of an English club for the first time since 1985 when 39 people

died in rioting before the final between Juventus and Liverpool at the Heysel stadium in Brussels.

The subsequent ban on England's clubs was partially lifted last season, allowing Manchester United and Aston Villa to play in the cup winners' and UEFA Cups respectively, but league champions Arsenal are now the country's standard bearers in the premier European competition.

Arsenal, beaten only once in 38 first division matches last season, have already lost three times in their opening eight games of the new league campaign.

However, Arsenal's 4-1 thrashing of London rivals Crystal Palace Saturday provided a timely confidence booster ahead of Wednesday's home clash against Austria Vienna.

Both Liverpool and unbeaten league leaders Manchester United, who start their cup defence against PAE Athinaikos in Greece, face selection difficulties before their games Wednesday.

UEFA regulations means sides can field only four foreigners, including Scots, Welsh and Irish players, which compounds the problem for English teams.

United Manager Alex Ferguson said: "I have nine foreigners in my first team squad and that's a problem because five of them won't be allowed to play."

Spanish league champions Barcelona will be missing some key

players when they host Germany's Hansa Rostock Wednesday in the European Cup.

The Catalan team, who had problems beating Real Zaragoza 3-1 at home Saturday, have defender Nando Munoz, midfielder Guillermo Amor and striker Jose Bakero serving bans from last season's Cup Winners' Cup.

Barcelona's Dutch coach Johan Cruyff was wary of the Germans. "Hansa are a difficult rival to beat. They play pretty well and you have to respect them."

Former east German champions Hansa seem to be running out of steam in the league after their surprise early-season form and went down 2-1 to Karlsruhe at the weekend, their first home defeat of the season.

However, Bundesliga champions Kaiserslautern, who meet Bulgaria's Veliko Tarnovo in the European Cup Tuesday, looked in superb form when they thumped Borussia Dortmund 4-0.

French champions Marseille warmed up for their Champions' Cup clash against Luxembourg with a hard-fought 3-2 win at Sochaux Saturday.

The way Marseille won after trailing Sochaux for more than 30 minutes delighted trainer Tomislav Ivic. "The reaction they had was fantastic," he said. "It proved that all the players wanted to win. What I saw in the second half was a great team."

Teams contesting the Champions' Cup face its reshaped experimental format after the second round when it will be played on a league basis instead of the traditional knockout style.

The eight winners from the second round will form two groups of four, with each team playing six matches. The top side in each section then qualifies for the final.

Marseille, who lost last season's European Cup final to Red Star Belgrade, should move easily into the second round despite the probable absence of injured defender Basile Boli Wednesday.

Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven, who travel to Turkey to meet Besiktas in the European Cup Wednesday, maintained their 100 per cent winning league sequence with a fourth victory at the weekend, 2-1 at home to Roda JC Kerkrade.

PSV are still without Brazilian striker Romario, who is undergoing treatment for an ankle injury in South America and will not return before Sept. 21.

Italy's European Cup representatives, Sampdoria, go into their first cup match Wednesday, at home to Norway's Rosenborg, in poor form and without the suspended Roberto Mancini.

Sampdoria are in mid-table with three points from three games after being held 1-1 at Barri Sochaux Saturday.

Teams contesting the Champions' Cup face its reshaped experimental format after the second round when it will be played on a league basis instead of the traditional knockout style.

The eight winners from the second round will form two groups of four, with each team playing six matches. The top side in each section then qualifies for the final.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

of finance you can improve your position.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You now find it necessary to bring to light some personal ambition that you want very much but that you have not yet been able to realize in you.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You want to make some drastic changes in the way you are operating but it is best that you do not expect methods and ways to change them.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You are able to sit down now to flesh out any joint problems you have with anyone else and to gain the good will of those who seem to be against you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get busy at the projects you have to do and show your fellow associates that they can really depend upon you and are a good person.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) This is the time to make your own rules and regulations that apply to you and that you are on the mind of an official.

PIRATES (February 20 to March 20) Now you can get out of that groove that you have been steeped in for sometime and get out in the world of outside activity with new inspiration.

LIBRA (July 22 to August 21) Today you may need to have some fixed condition that you do not wholly like but if you will show others your interest in that welfare all is OK.

VEIRGO (August 22 to September 22) You are able to make arrangements and agreements that take into account the temporary service you have in mind despite other conflicts.

LEO (September 23 to October 22) Money is in the womb of your thoughts and plans now and if you act very cleverly and according to the rules

"The stars impel, they do not control." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

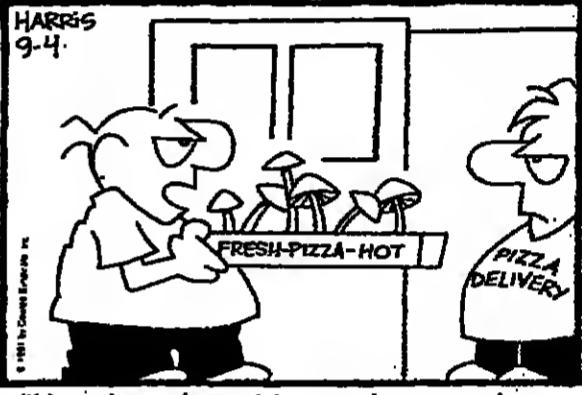
\* Ready jewellery with all gems on 18 KT. gold.

World Resources: Deems & Co Inc  
Jewellers: Gold & Silver

Armen: Po De Javara  
Armen: Arma Haze Et Force

## THE BETTER HALF

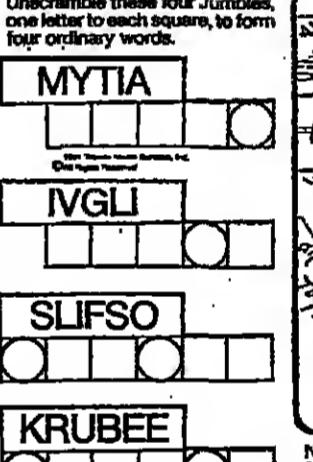
By Harris



"How long has this mushroom pizza been in your van?"

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME  
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: 

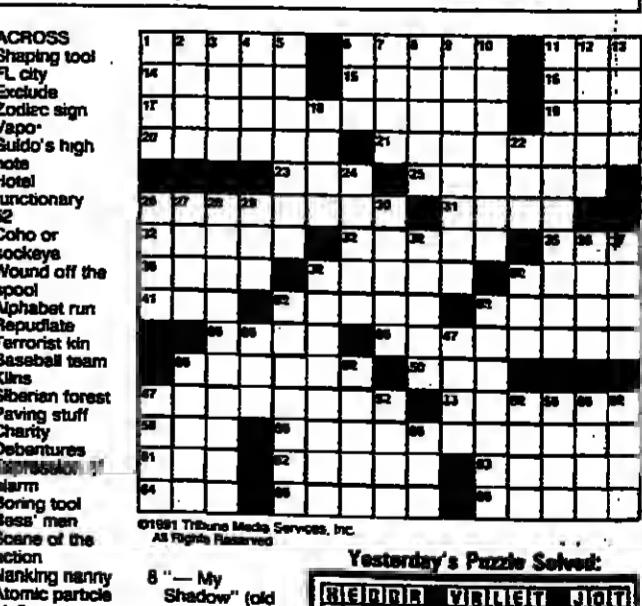
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: WHINE QUASH GADFLY BUCKLE

Answer: She thought her mother-in-law came to dinner too often and just constituted another mouth to --- HEED

## THE Daily Crossword

by Henry Salchandler

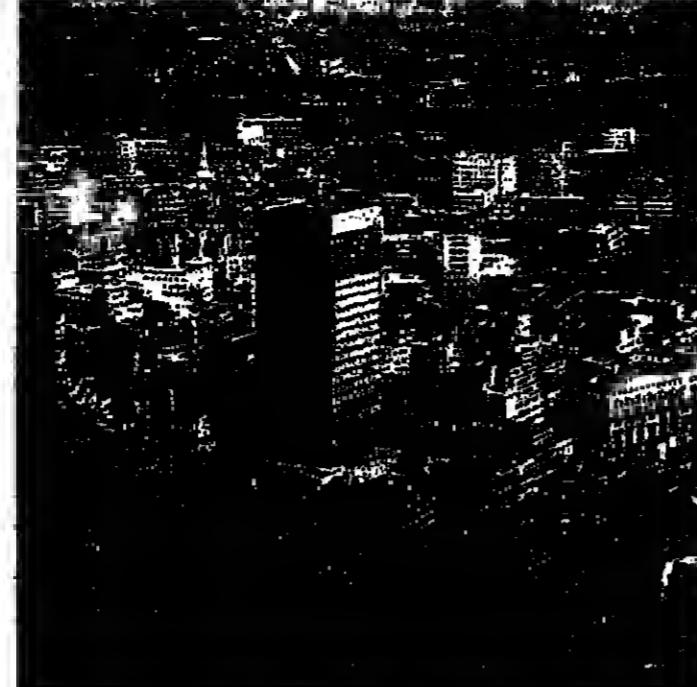


Financial Markets		Jordanian Dinar		U.S. Dollar in International Markets	
in co-operation with	Cairo Amman Bank				
Currency		NEWARK CLOSE	SINGAPORE CLOSE		
Date 15/9/91		Date 16/9/91			
Sterling Pound*	1.7297	1.7300			
Deutsche Mark	1.6900	1.6890			
Swiss Franc	1.4802	1.4785			
French Franc	5.7825	5.7823 **			
Japanese Yen	134.08	134.20			
European Currency Unit	1.2150	1.2127 **			
* USD Per STC					
** European Opened at 1000 a.m. GMT					
Exchanging currency between dates: 16/9/91					
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	5.43	5.43	5.56	5.75	
Sterling Pound	10.31	10.00	10.12	10.12	
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.06	9.25	9.25	
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.06	7.93	7.68	
French Franc	9.12	9.18	9.25	9.31	
Japanese Yen	7.00	6.50	6.25	6.06	
European Currency Unit	9.56	9.56	9.68	9.75	
Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.					
Previous Month					
Date: 16/9/91					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm <sup>2</sup>	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm <sup>2</sup>
Gold	345.05	6.10	Silver	4.03	.050
21 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin					
Date: 16/9/91					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	.687	.689			
Sterling Pound	1.1873	1.1932			
Deutsche Mark	.4065	.4085			
Swiss Franc	.4642	.4665			
French Franc	.1193	.1199			
Japanese Yen*	.5114	.5140			
Dutch Guilder	.3605	.3625			
Swedish Krona	.1116	.1122			
Italian Lira*	.0543	.0546			
Belgian Franc	.01975	.01985			
* Per 100					
Other Currencies					
Date: 16/9/91					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahraini Dinar	1.7700	1.7750			
Lebanese Lira*	.0770	.0774			
Saudi Riyal	.1829	.1837			
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-			
Qatari Riyal	.1860	.1870			
Egyptian Pound	.2050	.2150			
Qatari Riyal	1.7500	1.7450			
UAE Dirham	.1860	.1870			
Greek Drachma*	.3600	.3600			
Cypriot Pound	1.4500	1.4700			
* Per 100					
CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market					
Index	14/9/91	Close	15/9/91	Close	
All-Share	116.32	116.79			
Banking Sector	99.34	99.22			
Insurance Sector	119.69	119.31			
Industry Sector	141.26	142.47			
Services Sector	128.29	127.42			
December 31, 1990 - 100					

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7300/10	U.S. dollars	1.1347/52
One U.S. dollar	1.6865/75	Canadian dollar	1.9005/15
	1.4748/55	Deutschmarks	34.7680
	5.7430/80	Dutch guilders	1261/1262
	134.05/15	Swiss francs	6.1330/80
	6.6075/25	Belgian francs	6.5100/50
	345.15/345.65	French francs	1.1330/80
		Italian lire	1.1340/50
		Japanese yen	1.1340/50
		Swedish crowns	1.1340/50
		Norwegian crowns	1.1340/50
		Danish crowns	1.1340/50
		U.S. dollars	1.1340/50



London is now home to more than 70 Arab banks and financial institutions

## Survey finds London in danger of losing lead as global financial hub

LONDON (R) — London could be in danger of losing its position as a global financial hub unless it addresses transport problems and the threat from rival European centres, a survey of foreign banks showed Monday.

The survey by the London Chamber of Commerce (LCC) concluded that London was failing to take the steps needed to persuade foreign institutions to stay in the city.

"London's relative advantage as a financial capital is diminishing rapidly, benefiting Paris and Frankfurt," said Jacqueline Ginnane, chief economist at the LCC.

"London as a city needs to address its own internal weaknesses immediately if its absolute

advantage is not also to be threatened," she said.

Firms are undecided about London's role in the expansion of financial markets and European integration. This, combined with infrastructure weakness, is pushing new investment and existing operations to Frankfurt, Paris and New York, the LCC said.

Of the 478 foreign banking institutions with operations in London, 109 responded to the survey.

Eighty-two per cent of respondents said London needed to address its internal problems, particularly transport, working and living standards. High operating costs were seen as a major reason for transfer of investment away from the city.

## Intel faces difficulties

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Intel Corp's shares took a severe beating recently after the company announced its seemingly recession-proof business was encountering a shimp.

Intel's stock lost \$6.75 in a day after it said that its profit and revenues were under pressure in the third quarter ending Sept. 28.

The company said it would not be able to meet the dollar-a-share profit forecast by Wall Street analysts, but would still come in better than the 83 cents a share earned a year ago. In the second quarter, it earned \$1.10 a share, or \$23.8 million.

In recent months, shares of such giants as Apple Computer Inc., International Business Machines Corp. and Compaq Computer Corp. have fallen after the companies admitted to facing difficulties.

The computer makers have been slashing prices on their pro-

ducts to entice customers, while laying off thousands of employees to pare costs.

Intel, which provides the chips or "brains" that run most IBM-compatible personal computers, said weakening demand for computers and price competition was finally beginning to hurt.

The company said it would not be able to meet the dollar-a-share profit forecast by Wall Street analysts, but would still come in better than the 83 cents a share earned a year ago. In the second quarter, it earned \$1.10 a share, or \$23.8 million.

The combination of seasonal weakness, a sluggish economy and a computer industry in rapid transition has produced poor results in the industry," Intel President Andrew Grove said in a statement.

The computer makers have been slashing prices on their pro-

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — The markets were closed for a national holiday. Trading will resume on Tuesday. On Friday stocks closed sharply higher with the Nikkei Average up 604.23 points to 23,134.43.

PARIS — Shares ended only a shade up after late profit-taking cut into a mid-session rally. The CAC-40 index finished 2.07 points up at 3,782.26.

LONDON — Shares closed stubbornly down, refusing to come out of the doldrums even after a late bid by Hanson for housebuilder Beazer. The FTSE Index finished 19.8 points down at 2,606.0.

FRANKFURT — Prices weakened although some second-tier shares posted sharp gains. The Dax Index closed 7.87 points down at 1,629.75.

ZURICH — Shares lost almost one per cent in lacklustre trade. The SPI Index fell 8.7 points to close at 1,101.9.

## Abu Dhabi keeps bankers guessing over BCCI rescue

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — The government of Abu Dhabi, majority holders in the scandal-hit Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), is keeping bankers guessing on its plan to rescue the group's operations in a number of countries.

"They have to restart the bank's operations at least here (United Arab Emirates) and Britain for reasons of prestige," a senior banker based in Dubai said.

Banking sources in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) believe the rescue or relaunch plan involves smaller, leaner overseas operations with a new management team and an injection of \$4 to \$5 billion.

Abu Dhabi authorities started their own investigations earlier this month on fraud allegations which prompted the worldwide closure of the bank on July 5. About 15 senior BCCI officials are still in custody for questioning.

A committee including senior Abu Dhabi finance, banking, oil officials and directors of Abu Dhabi ruler, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan's department of Personal Affairs, are considering the future involvement of the emirate in BCCI, banking sources said.

They added that the international auditing and consultancy firm Ernst and Young also had a mandate to prepare a report on a possible relaunch of the bank, 77.4 per cent owned by the Abu Dhabi government.

The sources said the report was to be prepared by Sunday but Abu Dhabi officials remained silent on any future prospects of BCCI.

A British court had ordered BCCI shareholders to prepare a rescue plan by Dec. 2.

"The (rescue) plan is said to involve keeping BCCI operations alive in eight to nine countries," a UAE-based banker said.

The London-based Arabic-language newspaper Al Hayat reported Saturday that Sheikh Zaid had pledged a \$150 million loan to help BCCI's Egypt operations.

Sheikh Zaid, who is also the president of the UAE, is currently on an official visit to Egypt.

Bankers said BCCI might be relaunched in Egypt, the UAE, Pakistan, Britain, and possibly in a few more countries in Europe and the Middle East.

Before the July 5 closure, BCCI had more than 350 branches and offices in 67 countries, from North and South American

to Asia and Africa. "United States will be out, South America will be out, Africa will be out, a banker close to BCCI said.

The relaunch plan is also said to rely on the acceptance of deposits to keep funds with the bank up to five years and to settle for lower interest rates.

An affiliate of BCCI in the UAE, recently renamed Union National Bank (UNB) is operating and BCCI's 40 per cent share will be purchased soon by Abu Dhabi interests, sources close to BCCI said.

However, they said it was highly unlikely that BCCI's eight branches in the UAE would be incorporated in UNB.

UNB is negotiating with the government of Pakistan to take over BCCI's operations in that country.

Bankers in the UAE said most of the top executives of BCCI, in custody since last Sunday, may have to break their ties with the bank.

Sources close to BCCI said they expected the official, who include former acting president Suleiman Naqvi, to be freed soon.

Mr. Naqvi, a British citizen, has been indicted in the United

States on money laundering charges but there is no U.S.-UAE extradition treaty.

Meanwhile, London's Financial Times reported Monday that BCCI officials defrauded Nigeria of up to \$200 million from 1985 to 1987.

The newspaper quoted officials of the scandal-ridden bank as saying London BCCI executives coordinated fraudulently with colleagues working for BCCI-Nigeria under a management contract.

The Times said the officials estimated the bank made an illegal profit of \$150 million to \$200 million between 1985 and 1987, but that the frauds were probably in operation beginning in 1982.

BCCI officials said that in one of the frauds a secret account was operated within BCCI-Nigeria under the exclusive control of the expatriate management, and directed by London executives, the newspaper said.

The managers fed a substantial portion of local currency profits made by BCCI-Nigeria into the secret account, then diverted the money to London via customer's accounts, the newspaper quoted the officials as saying.

RABAT (R) — King Hassan said in an interview with a Moroccan economic weekly that the Moroccan dirham would be a convertible currency by the year 1993. "It is true that the debt burden is heavy. But if we arrive at a stand-by accord with the (International) Monetary Fund, which we are currently negotiating, we will emerge (from the problem)," the king told the Casablanca weekly La Vie Economique.

"I think that in 1993, God willing, we ought to be out of the tunnel and the dirham will be convertible," he added.

Morocco's foreign debt is estimated by the World Bank at \$22 billion.

"If repay my debt without creating jobs it would be like pouring water on sand. I prefer to reschedule my debt, even if it weighs heavily, and give work to young Moroccans," the king said.

The king said income from the sale of state enterprises in a privatisation programme would be paid into the government's equipment budget for economic development and not into the ordinary budget for operating expenses

## Yugoslav jet shot down; heavy fighting continues in Osijek

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (Agencies) — A Yugoslav Air Force plane was reported shot down Monday near the Hungarian border, as fighting raged for the third straight day in the besieged eastern Croatian city of Osijek.

Hungarian defence officials in Budapest said three Yugoslav jets crossed into Hungarian air space Monday morning and that bombing was reported along the border.

The federal army has often aided Serbs in the ongoing Croat-Serb fighting.

The official Yugoslav News Agency (Tanjug) quoting sources close to the air force command, said a jet was shot down by a ground-to-air missile near Dinji Miholjac on the border with Hungary, some 400 kilometres north-west of Belgrade.

Tanjug said it was not clear whether the plane was shot from the Croatian or Hungarian side.

Hungarian Defence Ministry spokesman Col. Gyorgy Keleti said the Hungarian Air Force had not downed a jet.

Col. Keleti said there was intensive air activity along the Yugoslav-Hungarian border.

He said three Yugoslav Air Force jets crossed into Hungarian air space Monday morning, and that they fired two air-to-ground rockets at Yugoslav targets. It was not immediately clear what was hit.

The escalating violence came as the European Community's (EC) mediator, Lord Carrington, travelled to Yugoslavia for a

meeting with Croatian and Serbian leaders to try to secure a ceasefire.

The longstanding Serb-Croat ethnic rivalry was exacerbated when the Republic of Croatia declared independence in June.

Ethnic Serbs living in the republic say they fear discrimination in an independent Croatia. Serb guerrillas have taken control of about a third of Croatia.

Croatia accuses Serbia, the largest of Yugoslavia's six republics, of instigating the fighting in an attempt to expand its territory.

Tensions between the Croats and ethnic Serbs — who make up 12 per cent of Croatia's 4.7 million people — are fanned by memories of the World War II slaughter of Serbs by a Nazi puppet regime in Croatia.

The fighting has left more than 400 people dead since late June.

Clashes escalated over the weekend after Croatian blockaded federal army garrisons, halting food supplies and cutting off electricity. Federal troops responded by pounding Croatian positions with tanks, troops and planes. At least 26 people died in Croatia in a 24-hour period ending Sunday night.

Croatian media and defence officials reported fighting Monday throughout the republic.

Croatian media and the republic's Defence Ministry said one nurse was killed and parts of Osijek's general hospital were destroyed in overnight artillery attacks by federal troops.

A federal military statement

carried by Tanjug said Croatian troops mounted an all-night attack on the federal barracks in Osijek to try to force a surrender.

An infantry attack on the barracks near the city centre was preceded by a mortar barrage and was repulsed, said the statement, adding that several of the shells had struck the nearby hospital and residential buildings near the barracks.

A Croatian defence spokesman said he had no information on possible injuries. Hospital patients had been moved to bomb shelters earlier. Croatian radio reported that several parts of the hospital were still burning.

Elsewhere in Osijek, about 10 fires burned out of control, media and Defence Ministry reported, and air raid warnings sounded.

Fighting was also reported in Vukovar, south of the Hungarian border. The federal military statement said troops had beaten off a Croat attack on the garrison in Vukovar, a city on the Danube River boundary with Serbia.

Tanjug reported there had been a partial mobilisation of territorial defence troops in Vojvodina, the Serbian northern province bordering Croatia. It said parts of eight wartime units had been called up.

Croat forces — after weeks of setbacks in fighting with federal troops and rebellious Serbs living in their territory — claimed Sunday to have captured hundreds of federal soldiers and a large cache of arms, including anti-tank weapons.

In Amsterdam, Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek has called for a meeting of the Western European Union (WEU) to consider sending an armed peacekeeping force to Yugoslavia, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday.

"We have asked the German presidency of the WEU to convene a meeting shortly in order to discuss the desirability and feasibility of despatching a WEU peacekeeping force to Yugoslavia," the spokesman told Reuters.

The Netherlands currently holds the rotating presidency of the EC.

Meanwhile, Britain and Greece Monday agreed that nothing would be gained from recognising individual Yugoslav republics which have declared themselves independent, a British government official said.

He said British Prime Minister John Major and visiting Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitrofakis agreed in talks that there were "no advantages and indeed signs of danger in recognising individual republics."

There have been differing approaches on the issue within the European Community, which is trying to act as a peacemaker in the fighting between Yugoslav republics. Croatia and Slovenia have declared their independence.

The two prime ministers agreed they would continue to support the EC peace initiative headed by Lord Carrington.

## Carlsson quits after suffering biggest poll defeat

STOCKHOLM (R) — Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson resigned Monday after his long-ruling Social Democrats lost an election that swung Sweden to the right.

Formation of a new government was clouded by division within the victorious centre-right coalition, which topped Mr. Carlsson's party but failed to win a parliamentary majority in the ballot Sunday.

Meanwhile, Britain and Greece Monday agreed that nothing would be gained from recognising individual Yugoslav republics which have declared themselves independent, a British government official said.

He said British Prime Minister John Major and visiting Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitrofakis agreed in talks that there were "no advantages and indeed signs of danger in recognising individual republics."

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The two prime ministers agreed they would continue to support the EC peace initiative headed by Lord Carrington.

Carlsson, 56, a party stalwart who replaced the assassinated Olof Palme in 1986, handed in his resignation 0900 GMT to parliamentary Speaker Tage Petersson after the Social Democratic Party suffered its biggest election defeat since the 1920s.

"I have asked to be dismissed and my request was granted," Mr. Carlsson told reporters in a curt statement outside the speaker's office in the parliamentary building by Stockholm's medieval old town.

"He asked me to remain as head of a caretaker cabinet, and I naturally accepted," Mr. Carlsson added, declining to make any further comments.

A centre-right coalition — led by the Conservatives and also including the Liberals, the Centre Party and the Christian Democrats — won 47.1 per cent of the vote. The Social Democrats and its allied Leftist Party received 42.7 per cent.

The populist New Democracy Party led by eccentric businessman Count Ian Wachtmeister took 6.8 per cent of the vote — and the balance of power.

Finance Minister Allan Larsson said the election result was likely to hurt the Swedish economy's chances of recovering from zero growth and rising unemployment.

"We will now get political instability and uncertainty and that will damage the country," he said.

Police said Monday that three people were killed overnight in Johannesburg's black townships. Two black men were stabbed to death in Alexandra and another was stabbed to death in Tokozza, they said.

## Manila Senate formally rejects U.S. bases pact

MANILA (R) — The Philippine Senate Monday formally rejected a new U.S. military bases treaty on a third and final vote, forcing Washington to begin withdrawing 8,000 servicemen from its former colony.

The United States is likely to be given a year to withdraw, handing back Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Station, previously the two largest U.S. military bases in Asia.

President Corazon Aquino, fighting to keep U.S. troops in the country, has said she wants to hold a referendum to overturn the Senate vote. The referendum could be held in December.

Only eight votes in the 23-member Senate were needed to kill the accord, which had to be passed with a two-thirds majority.

Casting the decisive vote, Senator Aquilino Pimentel branded the pact "a monstrous treaty that preserves the master and servant relationship between the United States and our country."

He called his vote "the last critical nail that needs to be driven into the coffin of the treaty of alliance."

"We are laying an age-old problem which has divided our nation," Mr. Enrile told reporters.

## Column 8

Thieves use sleeping gas to prey on passengers

NICE, France (R) — Thieves used sleeping gas to prey on railway passengers travelling to southern France this weekend, police said Monday. They said at least half a dozen French and foreign passengers bound for this French Mediterranean resort on separate trains from Geneva, Rome and Lourdes, complained their possessions were stolen. The robbers operated in southern France and northern Italy, often using sleeping gas to ensure they worked undisturbed, police said. They then disembarked at midway stations before their victims awoke. French Railway police say they registered 2,000 such robberies in 1990.

## Australia uncovers visa racket

CANBERRA (R) — Australia has uncovered a racket at its high commission in Malaysia in which visas were given to prostitutes, officials said Monday. A Malaysian-based syndicate had corrupted two locally hired staff at the high commission in Kuala Lumpur to issue visitor visas to women who would travel to Australia to work in brothels, an immigration department spokesman said.

"It is an historic vote. I think this is a moment of truth," said former defence minister, Senator Ian Ponce Enrile.

"We are laying an age-old problem which has divided our nation," Mr. Enrile told reporters.

## Hong Kong liberals win in election snub to China

HONG KONG (R) — Liberals scored a resounding victory Monday in the first direct elections to Hong Kong's Legislative Council, winning 16 out of 18 seats, a margin they said sent a clear message to China that the people want more democracy.

In what commentators saw as a setback for Peking, which takes over the British colony in 1997, the pro-democracy United Democrats led by eccentric businessman Count Ian Wachtmeister took 6.8 per cent of the vote — and the balance of power.

Finance Minister Allan Larsson said the election result was likely to hurt the Swedish economy's chances of recovering from zero growth and rising unemployment.

"We will now get political instability and uncertainty and that will damage the country," he said.

Mr. Peterson said he would now hold talks with all the party leaders. A new government could take office next month at the earliest after the legislature reconvenes on Oct. 1.

led democracy movement in Peking.

But in Sunday's elections, candidates and their supporters often outnumbered voters at polling stations and the turnout fell far short of even the government's conservative estimate of 50 per cent.

United Democrats Chairman Martin Lee, an outspoken critic of China's human rights record and of Britain's refusal to give Hong Kong full democracy, cruised to victory by a big majority.

Mr. Lee, whose United Democrats took 12 seats, says the whole of the Legislative Council — known as Legco — should be elected by the people.

His running mate, Man Sai-Cheong came second — each of the nine constituencies elects two members of the colonial parliament — inflicting a surprise defeat on schoolteacher Cheng Kai-Nan, one of the stars of the China-backed camp.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Former east German spy master arrested

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Former east German spy master Markus Wolf Sunday was placed under house arrest in Vienna and faces expulsion, the Interior Ministry reported Monday. Mr. Wolf, who was detained for questioning Sunday, asked for political asylum, but is likely to be deported, a spokesman told the Associated Press. "His request for asylum takes a minimum of two weeks," said the spokesman, who asked for anonymity. He said this meant the former head of east German intelligence cannot be expelled immediately.

### China awards Andreotti honorary degree

PEKING (R) — A Chinese university gave visiting Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti an honorary law degree Monday, the first Western leader to receive such an award since Peking's crackdown on dissent in June, 1989. The Italian leader's six-day visit is the latest sign Peking is emerging from the diplomatic isolation imposed by the West after China crushed the pro-democracy demonstrations, killing hundreds. "He has made great contributions in ceaselessly working on the strengthening and development of friendly relations between China and Italy," Peking University President Wu Shuqing said. "Mr. Andreotti is China's good friend," Mr. Wu said. Mr. Andreotti referred obliquely to human rights in a short speech. "The world is looking for new roads for universal peace and justice among the people. This is a difficult aim to achieve, but it's possible to achieve it."

"The young people have a... deep attachment to freedom and they have also the will to see that their rights are respected while observing their own duties," he said.

### Gorbachev's envoy in South Korea

SEOUL (R) — An envoy from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev arrived in Seoul Monday to discuss aid and ways of expanding ties following last month's failed Soviet coup, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Vadim Medvedev, a senior adviser to Mr. Gorbachev, is due to meet President Roh Tae-Woo to deliver a message expressing thanks for South Korea's support during the coup attempt. Critics of the South Korean government have pointed out however that Seoul was slow to condemn the coup. Mr. Medvedev, the first senior official from Kremlin to visit Seoul since the coup, is also due to meet business leaders during his five-day stay.

### Polish freighter capsizes

CABO ORTEGA, Spain (AP) — A Polish freighter has capsized in a collision with a South Korean container ship 96 miles of Spain's most northeastern Galician port, an officer said. Luis Burgos, assistant rescue coordinator in the Spanish Merchant Marine, said there were no injuries and no oil spillage. All 19 sailors on the Kosciuszko were rescued by the other ship, identified as Hanjin Singapore, although four of the Polish crew members remained in the water near the ship waiting for the towboat.

### Rebels kill up to 30 Burmese troops

MAE SOT, Thailand (R) — Karen guerrillas killed up to 30 Burmese soldiers by firing mortars at their boats as they travelled downriver near the Thai frontier, Thai border police said. The attack Friday brought to about 100 the combined death toll in a week of fighting between government troops and guerrillas on the Thai-Burmese border, an officer in this Thai frontier town said Sunday. The officer said the Karen opened fire and sank the three Burmese boats at Manerplaw. The boats were carrying reinforcements to skirmishes about eight kilometres north of the base, on the bank of the adjoining Moei River facing Thailand.

### Dhaka blames Indian dam for floods

RAJSHAHI, Bangladesh (R) — Paramilitary guards and volunteers struggling to repair beaches to an embankment in flood-stricken north Bangladesh have pinned blame for much of the disaster on India's Farakka Dam. "I don't say Farakka is the only reason behind recurring floods, but I must say it is one of the main reasons," said Mohammad Saifuzzaman, deputy commissioner of Rajshahi, one of the worst-hit districts. He said flooding started in Bangladesh after India opened gates at Farakka, 80 kilometres from Rajshahi, to release floodwaters in West Bengal state. "This suddenly raised the water level in the Padma, Mahananda and several other rivers which burst their banks, sending hundreds of villages under water," he said Monday. "The rains only added to the disaster and increased its fury." The Farakka Dam regulates the flow of the Ganges River. Successive Bangladeshi governments have complained that Farakka causes navigation and irrigation problems by withholding much of the Ganges water during the dry season, and aggravates flooding in the monsoon season by releasing excess water.

### Mongolia Communists call early congress

PEKING (R) — Mongolia's beleaguered Communist Party, buffeted by democratic reforms at home and the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union, has called a national congress for December and will probably change its name and top officials. In a dispatch from Ulan Bator, the New China News Agency said the 21st national congress would be held from Dec. 25 to 27 "ahead of schedule to discuss overall reforms in the country in response to dramatic changes taking place at home and abroad." The decision to hold the congress, less than a year after the 20th congress convened in February, was made Saturday night "in the wake of a new domestic and international situation as well as pressure coming from inside and outside the party," the agency said.

### Problem solved on ozone satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — Full contact was established Monday with a \$740 million environmental research satellite deployed by the U.S. space shuttle Discovery to study the Earth's diminishing ozone layer. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said engineers working around the clock solved a transmitter problem which had plagued the satellite since it was released by Discovery Sunday. "With that, the UARS (upper atmosphere research satellite) is in perfect health and in really fabulous shape," flight director Al Pennington said at mission control in Texas. The satellite will conduct the first detailed study of pollution's effect on the upper atmosphere, especially the shrinking layer of ozone that shields life from deadly ultraviolet radiation.

### U.K. ruling party buoyed by new polls

LONDON (R) — British government ministers said Sunday there was no need to rush into an early general election although they were encouraged by two new opinion polls showing the ruling Conservatives ahead of the opposition. Falling inflation and interest rates, signs that Britain's year-long economic recession may be ending, and a run of polls putting the Conservatives ahead of the Labour Party have fed media speculation about a November election. An election must be held by next July. A poll by the Harris Institute for Sunday's Observer newspaper gave the Conservatives a five-point lead, their biggest since April, at 43 per cent to 38 per cent for Labour. A survey by ICM for the Sunday Express gave the Conservatives 41 per cent to 37 per cent for Labour, whose support slumped six points from last month. Five consecutive opinion surveys have now shown a Conservative lead.

## Seoul opposition launches new party

SEOUL (R) — A coalition of South Korea's two main opposition groups formally launched a new party Monday, pledging to work for democracy and reunification of the divided Korean peninsula.

The Democratic Party (DP) was formed after last week's merger of the party of long-time opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung and a rival political group led by Lee Ki-Tack, the new party was legally registered Monday.

The DP said it would become a reformist party striving to achieve "democracy and reunification of our fatherland."

The new party, to be led by Mr. Kim and Mr. Lee, said it hoped to reduce the gap between rich and poor and to work against corruption.

The formation of the DP is the first substantial alliance of South Korea's splintered forces since 1987 when the government announced sweeping political reforms including direct presiden-

tial elections.

Political analysts said the merger would boost Mr. Kim who has long sought to extend his political powerbase beyond his southwestern Cholla region strongholds.

The DP holds 75 seats in the 299-member National Assembly. At least two independent plans to join the party soon, newspaper reports said.

The new party said the merger was aimed at winning next year's general and presidential elections.

President Roh Tae-Woo is due to step down after the polls in February, 1993 when his single five-year